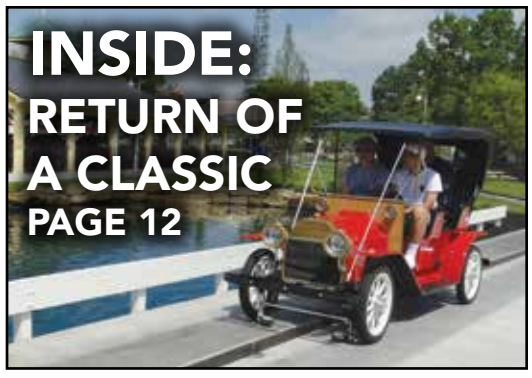
Amusement TODAY

Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

TM & ©2019 Amusement Today, Inc.



July 2019 | Vol. 23 • Issue 4 www.amusementtoday.com

Disneyland makes industry history with new 'Star Wars' land

The May 29 dedication of Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge was attended by (above, from left) George Lucas, Billy Dee Williams, Mark Hamill, Disney CEO Bob Iger and Harrison Ford. AT/DEAN LAMANNA; COURTESY DISNEYLAND RESORT

Galaxy's Edge takes immersive fun, exotic detail to outer limits

AT: *Dean Lamanna*
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

ANAHEIM — It arrived with fireworks, film stars, a famed myth-maker and plenty of intergalactic magic. **Disneyland**'s Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge welcomed the public May 31 after five years of planning and realization.

One of two nearly mirror-image, 14-acre sci-fi/fantasy areas making their debut at the **Walt Disney Co.**'s U.S. theme parks this summer (the other, at **Walt Disney World Resort**'s **Disney Hollywood Studios** in Orlando, is scheduled to open Aug. 29), the project represents the largest and most technologically advanced single-themed land ever introduced by the park.

The concept's official West Coast debut followed a May 29 evening dedication ceremony attended by *Amusement Today* and hundreds of international journal-

▸ See STAR WARS, page 6

Dollywood opens Wildwood Grove, the resort's largest expansion

Six-acre section adds 11 themed attractions, including seven rides

AT: *Tim Baldwin*
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Wildwood Grove is a $37 million expansion. A Larson Flying Scooters (above right) called The Mad Mockingbird is among the seven new rides. AT/TIM BALDWIN

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. — Embarking on its largest project to date, **Dollywood** opened Wildwood Grove to mass acclaim on May 10. With a $37 million investment, the six-acre section puts family front and center. While thrills are to be had within the mix, the family demographic is the prime focus.

Wildwood Grove is the largest expansion in park history. It features 11 new experiences, among which are seven new rides. A themed tree, a water recreation area, a music interaction zone and an indoor play structure round out the complement. The area also includes a new restaurant, restrooms, shopping market and snack carts. And shade. Lots of shade.

"It's rare in our industry that a park adds a completely new land it its entirety, and as we continue to grow and set attendance records, we needed to add more area to give guests more room to spread out," said **Craig Ross**, president, The **Dollywood Company**.

Creative Studios, the partner company within the **Herschend Family Entertainment** parks, conceived the area from start to completion. Wildwood Grove was a project four years in the making.

Patrick Brennan, creative designer and field art director, told *Amusement Today*, "When we first looked at the design of a 12-foot-drop waterfall, it wasn't very inspirational. We wanted to make it feel like it was in the mountains of Tennessee. We looked at Roaring Fork in **Smoky Mountain National Park**, and we modeled Wildwood Grove's waterfall

▸ See WILDWOOD, page 8

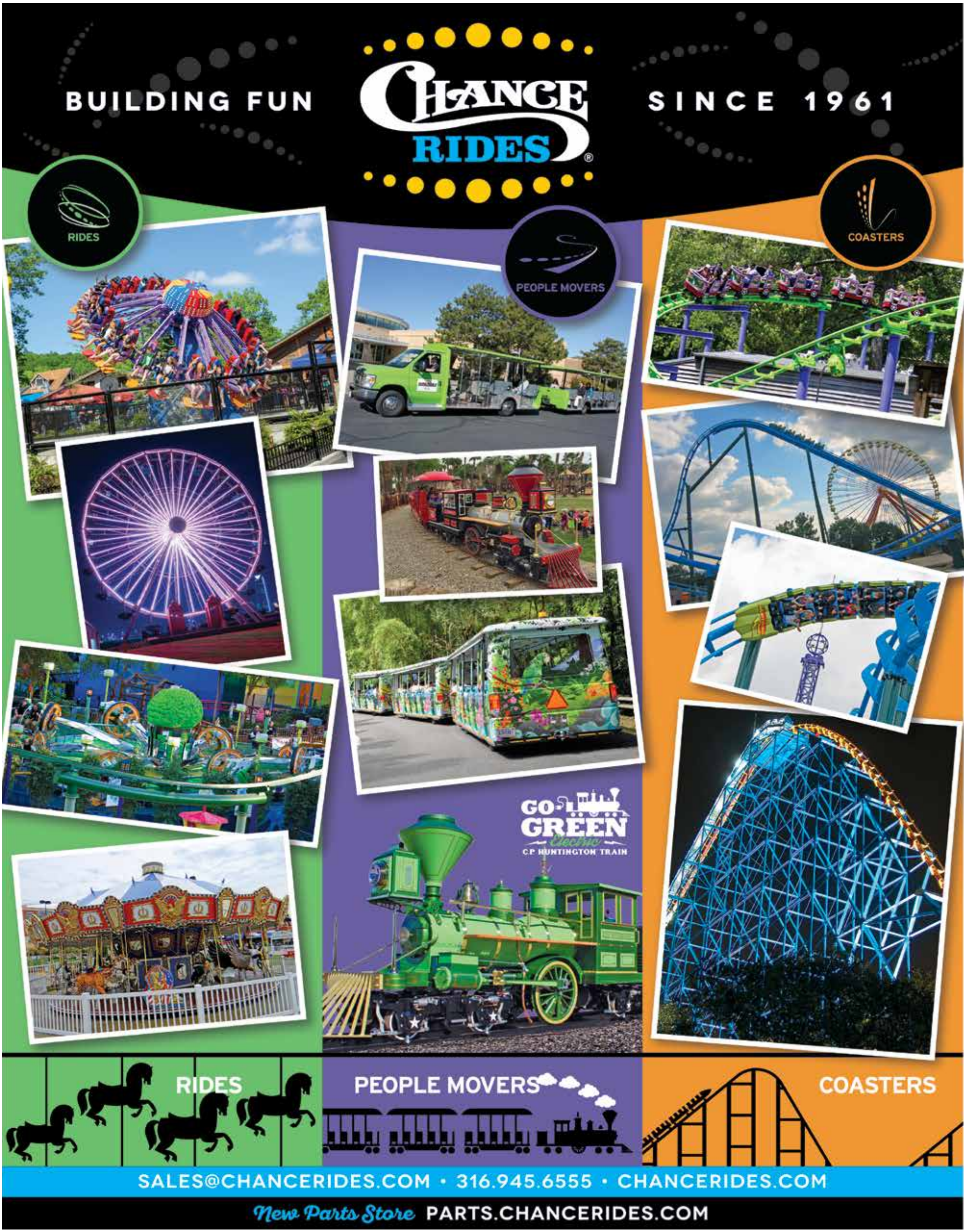
NEWSPAPER

POSTMASTER: Dated material.
PLEASE RUSH!
Mailed Tuesday, June 25, 2019

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GAINSVILLE, TX
PERMIT No. 55

AMUSEMENT VIEWS Page 4
BUSINESS Pages 42-49
PARKS & FAIRS Pages 12-37
SAFETY Pages 50-57
WATER PARKS Pages 38-41
CLASSIFIEDS Page 58

V.I.P.
AmusementTODAY
GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS
2019
BEST OF THE BEST!
SEPTEMBER 6 & 7, 2019
The sky is the limit ...
for the Best of the Best!
Hosted by
SILVERWOOD THEME PARK
Boulder Beach
Registration for the 2019 Golden Ticket Awards
is now open at
www.GoldenTicketAwards.com!
Sponsored by
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONSTRUCTION
WHITEWATER EST. 1980
Gallagher Metzler
ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & CO.
CHANCE RIDES
IRT INTERNATIONAL RIDE TRAINING
LARSON INTERNATIONAL INC.
RIDES 4U
Supplying Amusements New to Used
S&S – SANSEI TECHNOLOGIES INC
AMAZING PICTURES
dippin' dots
pepsi
THE Odom CORPORATION
URM


BUILDING FUN
CHANCE RIDES®
SINCE 1961
RIDES
PEOPLE MOVERS
COASTERS
GO GREEN
Electric
C.P. HUNTINGTON TRAIN
RIDES
PEOPLE MOVERS
COASTERS
SALES@CHANCERIDES.COM • 316.945.6555 • CHANCERIDES.COM
New Parts Store PARTS.CHANCERIDES.COM

AMUSEMENT VIEWS

***AT* NOTEBOOK:** *John W.C. Robinson, jrobinson@amusementtoday.com*

Fun at the finish line

Robinson

When my father, William H. Robinson, was marketing several small amusement parks in the 1980s and 1990s, inevitably all parks had weekends and days that it felt nearly impossible to attract people. Promotions were the key then, tying in with local brands, radio stations, and offering steep discounts such as carloads.

In more recent years, parks throughout the industry have found a new way to spin their turnstiles on normally quiet weekends. With an increasing number of people filling their spring and summer days with a more active lifestyle, amusement and theme parks have been tapping into these activities that would normally compete for their seasonal attention and have been inviting participants through their gates by hosting their own events.

Running events as small as a 5K — and as large as the Walt Disney World Marathon — are being held annually and bringing new attention and guests to parks.

Disney's events have become so popular that the runDisney brand was created to showcase the events on social media and on clothing. Multiple Cedar Fair parks have begun hosting events for the company's "Run and Ride" series, encouraging participants to come for the run, then stay with their families and ride the coasters.

Family-owned Quassy Amusement Park in Connecticut hosted an Ironman triathlon recently. Lagoon Amusement Park of Utah and Pittsburgh's Kennywood have each hosted a combination of half marathons, 10Ks, and 5Ks.

I took my own family on a vacation to Kings Dominion a couple summers ago for the park's Run and Ride event. The whole family participated in the 5K together. The 14-year-old ran alongside me throughout the race and often remarked how cool it was to start the race under a running Dominator coaster and through the Dinosaurs Alive attraction. That 30-minute run on a Saturday morning was what drove us eight hours out to visit the park for our family vacation. Less than an hour for a running event opened the door for an unforgettable vacation that lasted several days, all within the gates of a theme park. The run got my attention. I brought my family.

All that is required is land and a place for the competitors to run. A park midway, early in the morning prior to opening the gates, is perfect for this. Fire up the lights, spin the carousel, let the coaster roar along its tracks and have employees and park mascot out high-fiving runners as they pass by … a unique, one-of-a-kind running course is almost instantly created. And, afterwards, a gathering of park guests to enjoy a day at the park is instantly ready and waiting.

FLINT'S VIEW: *Bubba Flint*

GUEST OPINION: *Malcolm Burt, amusement academic/PhD candidate, Australia*

VR's dawning reality — storytelling matters

Burt

The amusement industry trades in nostalgia. In the same way we pine for "the good old days," we want things we see as "good" to stay the way they are.

This was a key finding of my master's degree research project examining why roller coasters exist. My exploration attracted a fair amount of media attention (more at malcolmburt.com, if you care to look) and led me to undertake a similarly adventurous PhD in the area of cutting-edge attractions technology. The central question this time: What do thrill-seekers want from virtual reality (VR)?

I have collected data by interviewing VR consumers worldwide as they exited VR roller coasters, VR simulators, VR drop rides and VR arenas — among the most advanced examples of immersive entertainment. The responses I've gathered range from "I just think it's flying around and stuff" and "I don't know what was going on" to "It felt a little bit like Super Mario: jump and run."

What consistently came through may have resonated just as well with the cave people: *We want story.*

Parks, entertainment centers and vendors have an understandable tendency to promote VR's flash while short-changing "narrative transportation" — a highly desirable state wherein participants lose track of the real world by being lost in a story. If VR enables enhanced escapism, a compelling narrative ensures the richer achievement of fully interactive and involved immersion.

Obviously, technical detail is critical for a successful VR experience (e.g., high resolution, spatial audio, free roaming in arena settings). But in my research, consumers more highly value VR when it is paired with solid storytelling. The challenge for innovators and operators is that most out-of-home VR experiences, in order to maintain profitable throughput, are necessarily short, which doesn't easily allow for story development. Additionally, the wild forces at work on certain rides utilizing VR can overwhelm narrative delivery.

VR, of course, is evolving. To fulfill its potential and keep us returning as it plots its next sensory surprises, it needs to embrace — and find ways to accommodate — the age-old tradition of storytelling.

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the columinst(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

AmusementTODAY
Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

Call **(817) 460-7220** for advertising, circulation or editorial inquiries

Amusement Today is an independent, privately-owned trade newspaper published 14 times per year by Amusement Today Inc., P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005. Print issues are $50 per year and are mailed Presort Standard Postage (permit No. 2069) Pre-Paid Fort Worth, Texas. The entire contents of this newspaper, and its related websites, are Copyrighted and Trademarked 2019 by Amusement Today Inc., all rights reserved.

Address: P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005-5427, USA
Deliveries: 2012 E. Randol Mill Road #203, Arlington, Texas 76011, USA
Phone: (817) 460-7220
Fax: (817) 265-NEWS (6397)
Websites: www.AmusementToday.com, www.GoldenTicketAwards.com

Founder & Publisher
Gary Slade • (817) 460-7220 x3
gslade@amusementtoday.com

Accounting & Classified
Sammy Piccola • (817) 460-7220 x1
spiccola@amusementtoday.com

Assistant Office Manager, Circulation
Savannah Breen • (817) 460-7220 x5
sbreen@amusementtoday.com

Advertising
Sue Nichols • (615) 477-5432
snichols@amusementtoday.com

Editorial
Dean Lamanna • (817) 460-7220
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

Tim Baldwin • (972) 697-9745
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Jeffrey Seifert • (817) 460-7220 x4
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

B. Derek Shaw • (717) 843-3050
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

Pam Sherborne • (615) 308-3310
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Production Manager
John Robinson • (513) 256-1441
jrobinson@amusementtoday.com

Monthly Contributors
David Fake, Bubba Flint, Lottie Minick, Richard Munch, Janice Witherow

Association Memberships
ACE, AIMS International, ASTM, IAAPA, IISF, IRT/iROC, NAARSO, NEAAPA, NJAA, OABA, PAPA, PACE, SLA, TTIA, WWA

Industry Affiliated Charities
Give Kids the World Village, Morgan's Wonderland, National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives

2 MINUTE DRILL

AT: Janice Witherow

Dan Aylward, Crayola Experience

Dan Aylward knows the amusement industry inside and out. As corporate director of **Crayola Experience** in Orlando, Fla., Dan is sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience to make this family attraction a success. Dan began his career in the business at **Kings Island** in 1972 and has held positions at places such as **Riverside Park**, **Silverwood Theme Park**, **Six Flags** and **Magic Springs and Crystal Falls** among others. He is known for his keen business development, long-term planning, expertise in marketing, finance and operations and his candid approach.

Dan Aylward has amassed a wealth of amusement industry knowledge, with his career beginning during the inaugural year of Cincinnati's Kings Island. COURTESY CRAYOLA EXPERIENCE

Title: Corporate Director of Crayola Experience Operations.

Number of years in the industry: 47.

Best thing about the industry: We get to go to work every day with our priority being to entertain our guests in such a way as to make memories for a lifetime.

Favorite amusement ride:
Wooden roller coasters.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be … Probably a reporter for a regional news outlet.

Biggest challenge facing our industry:
In a digital world, we must remain relevant to the younger demographics. So, we must adapt and modify technology along with annually adding major new attractions.

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is …
Watching families have fun in the park. There really is nothing like watching young families enjoy the fruits of our labors.

Favorite sandwich: Philly Steak Sandwich.

It's July! Where would we find you watching fireworks on the Fourth of July? Probably in a park somewhere.

Complete this sentence: Television news is … Naturally biased in their coverage dependent on the owner's point of view. You have to understand what their position is and how they work then work within their framework.

My all-time best vacation was …
A trip to Disney with our children when they were much younger.

The oddest birthday gift I have ever received is …
A coffee cup with the words "I'm 40, I wish my hair was here to celebrate with me."

Coolest animal at the circus: Elephants.
In 20 years, I will be … Happily retired.

You live in Florida. What three places would you take a first-time visitor to the Sunshine State?
Disney, Universal and the beach.

What was your bravest moment?
We were forced to evacuate from Egypt during the Arab Spring. The process was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

When I say junk food, you say …
Unfortunately, I say yes, please.

Favorite rainy-day activity: Reading.

The last movie I saw in the theatre … An independent film about religious events.

The neatest thing anyone ever told me would have to be …
I guess the best advice I ever received was "No one cares what you think, everyone cares what the guests think." I have tried to remember that advice.

50-yard-line tickets to the Super Bowl or VIP passes to Coachella? Super Bowl.

Your take on tabloid magazines:
They should be left on the shelf.

Right now, I would rather be …
Spending time with my family.

How often does your phone ring each day? 20 times.

Last thing I bought for under $1 was …
I think it may have been a pack of gum.

THE INDUSTRY SEEN

"We must never forget"

ELYSBURG, Penn. — For the past ten years, Knoebels Amusement Resort has held a 25-minute program on Memorial Day honoring America's departed veterans. The annual tradition starts with a parade through the park with key staff riding in "Knoebelized" vehicles, which included a Phoenix car, boat, antique car and Panther car, all made road-worthy. From left: Buddy Knoebel, Leanna Muscato and Dick Knoebel participate in the program. Dick Knoebel concluded his remarks by saying "We must never forget." AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Hershey's Gary Chubb retires

After 44 years with Hershey Entertainment & Resorts (HE&R), Gary Chubb retired in May. He was most recently the senior director of maintenance for HE&R A gathering of co-workers, friends, family and others attended a retirement party for him in the Giant Center Club Lounge. Above, Chubb is pictured with his former co-workers: (l to r) Lola Lausch, accounts payable coordinator; Jena Creter, executive administrative assistant; Jody Bennett, manager of guest experience; Gary Chubb and Laura Woodburn, managing director of attractions and the employee and guest experience. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Brian Knoebel (right) gave Chubb a bucket of items from Knoebels Amusement Resort, lumber yard and their other entities. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Franklin Shearer, GM of Hersheypark from 1991-2003 and wife Lucille, were at the festivities. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

ERRATUM

It should be noted regarding The Carousel at Pottstown feature that appeared in the April issue of *Amusement Today*, that staff of Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc. provided extensive assistance to the carousel volunteer organization. PTCI opened its archives on the Philadelphia Toboggan Company carousel #9 including blueprints, photographs and other relevant information to the volunteers. Numerous trips were made by staff to the project site in Pottstown, Pa. *AT* regrets the omission.

STAR WARS

Continued from page 1

ists. With **George Lucas**, **Harrison Ford**, **Mark Hamill** and **Billy Dee Williams** joining **Bob Iger**, Disney chairman and CEO, to launch Galaxy's Edge, the gala event unfolded with a distinct air of pop culture and attractions industry history — revealing an accomplishment that renders tangible more than four decades of the *Star Wars* universe in ways likely to floor its fans.

"*Star Wars* first came to Disney when our Imagineers and George Lucas joined forces to create the groundbreaking Star Tours attraction more than 30 years ago," said Iger, standing on a stage in front of a full-size replica of the Millennium Falcon spaceship. "In 2012, George entrusted us with his extraordinary legacy, and as you can see, we take that responsibility very seriously….

"When I first met with our Imagineers to talk about *Star Wars*, my message was actually quite simple: Do not be ambitious — be the most ambitious that you have ever been."

Telling Iger he did "a great job" with Galaxy's Edge as he joined the executive onstage, Lucas described the land as "Star Tours on steroids" before thanking **Walt Disney Imagineering** (WDI). "This thing is amazing," Lucas said. "It's something you couldn't even dream about 20 years ago."

Following Lucas's brief remarks, Williams, Hamill and Ford each stepped into the spotlight to wild applause, movingly expressing their gratitude to Lucas, Disney and the global *Star Wars* fandom.

Galaxy's Edge invites guests to live their own *Star Wars* adventures as they explore a remote planet called Batuu and its Black Spire Outpost, a port for smugglers, traders and adventurers. Here, they can sample exotic food and beverages, browse merchant shops and pilot "the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy" by boarding Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run, a motion simulator ride.

"By design, Black Spire Outpost is a place for adventures to begin, a stepping-off point," said **Scott Trowbridge**, *Star Wars* portfolio creative executive at WDI, adding that the land "redefines what a Disney experience can be. It invites exploration and discovery, where we can become characters in the *Star Wars* galaxy… with a new level of detail and immersion. This is an opportunity to play and engage with your friends and family in a shared experience that will forge lifelong memories."

Creating a new reality

Galaxy's Edge is built on the collaboration between WDI and now Disney-owned **Lucasfilm, Ltd.**, the "Force" behind the *Star Wars* franchise. The work between the two creative powerhouses dates back to 1987 and the making of Star Tours at Disneyland's Tomorrowland.

In every regard, they've come a long way. Galaxy's Edge required a team of artisans and construction workers numbering approximately 6,700 to complete. (To operate and maintain the land, 1,600 jobs have been added.)

When guests arrive at Black Spire Outpost, they will encounter aliens, droids and other inhabitants of the planet. Along the way, they may also meet some familiar characters, including Rey, Chewbacca, and the Supreme Leader Kylo Ren and his Stormtroopers

The land features elements representing different eras of the saga. Several creatures seen throughout include the dianoga from the Death Star trash compactor in *Star Wars: A New Hope* and the taxidermic wampa from the ice planet Hoth in *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*.

With both the Resistance and the First Order making encampments on Batuu, the evidence of their arrival is all around Black Spire Outpost, including several starfighters and transport shuttles. Guests can get up close to full-scale vehicles such as an A-wing Starfighter, a Sienar-Chall Utilipede-Transport and Landspeeders, among others.

Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run, introduced by the character Hondo Ohnaka (left), got a test drive by Disney CEO Bob Iger and Star Wars creator George Lucas.
COURTESY DISNEYLAND RESORT

In developing the décor for Galaxy's Edge, Imagineers tried to stick with pre-1980 materials in order to capture the look and feel of the earliest *Star Wars* films. They even took rubbings from the feet of the R2-D2 droid used in *Star Wars: A New Hope* and turned them into a set of three-dimensional wheels to leave droid tracks in the land's cement walkways.

Galaxy's Edge was designed with sightlines that evoke cinematic angles and create depth of perspective. The landscape is impressive, with Batuu dotted with towering petrified tree trunks (the tallest is over 130 feet); Black Spire Outpost takes its name from a trunk in the village center that is darker than the others.

In search of aesthetic inspiration, Imagineers visited George Lucas's private archives to study original *Star Wars* concept artwork created by **Ralph McQuarrie**, the artist who helped Lucas shape the look of the film settings. They also visited traditional open-air markets in Morocco and Turkey. These sources, plus new atmospheric music by Academy Award-winning composer **John Williams**, have contributed greatly to Black Spire Outpost's earthy yet otherworldly environment.

"We don't consider it science fiction or fantasy — we think of it more as a period piece and look at it almost from a documentary point of view," said **Doug Chiang**, vice president and executive creative director at Lucasfilm. "*Star Wars* design is grounded in reality."

Flying the Falcon

The land's showpiece, the 100-foot-plus-long Millennium Falcon, fronts Millennium Falcon: Smuggler's Run. A motion simulator ride, it combines immersive storytelling with interactive gameplay by WDI and Lucasfilm's award-winning visual effects subsidiary **Industrial Light & Magic** to make guests (38 inches and taller) the protagonists in an outer space adventure.

Groups of six enter the Falcon via an access hatch on the craft's starboard airlock. Inside the ship's lounge, they can sit and take selfies at the famous Dejarik (chess) table or poke around the room's prop technical equipment.

When it's time for the mission to begin, passengers strap themselves into the Falcon's cockpit. Each person is assigned one of three critical roles — pilot, gunner or flight engineer — and each is prompted to act when control panels light up and alarms go off during the journey.

The bucking ride both entertains and keeps passengers busy hitting multicolored flashing buttons. If the Falcon sustains damage from obstacles or enemy fire and is not properly repaired, the ship's handling is affected.

Launching at Galaxy's Edge later this year will be a second major attraction called Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance — billed as even more advanced and ambitious than the Millennium Falcon adventure. The dark ride will place guests in the middle of a climactic battle between the First Order and the Resistance.

Raising the "bar"

Five locations within Galaxy's Edge offer more than 50 distinct, out-of-this-world food and beverage items. The hottest kick-back spot is Oga's Cantina, located in the heart of Black Spire Outpost.

Here, guests gather to recount their travels and enjoy exotic beverages such as the spicy Bloody Rancor, the foamy Fuzzy Tauntaun and the fruity Carbon Freeze.

The Milk Stand, meanwhile, serves two refreshing "local favorites": Blue Milk and Green Milk. Both provide a frozen blend of exotic tastes and fruity accents, with Green Milk delivering a bit more zing.

There's innovative food, too. Ronto Roasters, named for the pack animals of Tatooine, draws attention with its large barbecue pit. Customers encounter a former smelter droid, 8D-J8, turning the spit of meats. The Ronto Wrap is a savory combination of roasted pork and grilled sausage.

At Docking Bay 7 Food and Cargo, the transport shuttle of Chef Strono "Cookie" Tuggs serves as a mobile kitchen and restaurant. The story goes that his journeys from system to system allow him to fill his pantry with the exotic ingredients he uses to make unusual dishes, such as smoked Kaadu ribs, Fried Endorian Tip-yip and, for dessert, Batuu-bon.

Galaxy's Edge also explores the storytelling side of merchandise. Retail comes to life as guests, under the tutelage of costumed "local citizens," build an interactive BB- or R-series robot at the Droid Depot or custom-construct a lightsaber at Savi's Workshop.

Star warriors outfitted with the **Play Disney Parks** mobile app can maximize their engagement with the land by choosing to aid a smuggler, join the Resistance or pledge their loyalty to the First Order. This interactive feature distinguishes the 14-acre land from any other in Disney history.

"At the heart of Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge is this fundamental truth: We all have the power to be a hero, making choices that change the course of the galaxy," said Trowbridge. "We intend to make this land part of *Star Wars* storytelling now and well into the future."

• disneyland.com

Oga's Cantina is Black Spire Outpost's watering hole and Disneyland's first public bar. DJ R-3X, the former Starspeeder 3000 pilot from Star Tours (above right), spins tunes as guests enjoy exotic alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.
COURTESY DISNEYLAND RESORT; AT/DEAN LAMANNA

Galaxy's Edge guests can custom-construct a lightsaber at Savi's Workshop. COURTESY DISNEYLAND RESORT

IAAPA® EXPO

THE GLOBAL **ATTRACTIONS**
INDUSTRY'S PREMIER EVENT

NEW NAME.
NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

IAAPA ATTRACTIONS EXPO IS **NOW IAAPA EXPO.**

SAVE THE DATE

CONFERENCE: Nov. 18–22, 2019 | **TRADE SHOW:** Nov. 19–22, 2019

ORLANDO, FL, US

www.IAAPA.org/IAAPAExpo

WILDWOOD
Continued from page 1

after this perfect model."

Entering Wildwood Grove through a thematic, hollow tree, guests encounter two of three rides supplied by **Zamperla**. Treetop Tower, often found with musicians performing outside its base, is a Samba Tower ride with carriages decorated as acorns. It offers views of the new section and the neighboring Great Tree Swing, a swinging ship ride here decorated with leaves and branches.

Just to the right is a major new restaurant called Till and Harvest. Dubbed "Smoky Mountain Mexican," the cuisine allows guests to hand craft their dishes as they move through the line to build nachos, bowls, burritos and more with a Smoky Mountain touch of flavors and sauces. The freshness of how the food is served and presented was a key factor in the addition. Plentiful outdoor seating helps keep the flow and capacity of the facility moving large amounts of guests. As a courtesy to the park's employees, Till and Harvest has its own employee lounge and food line in the back of the restaurant.

Zamperla's third ride, Frogs & Fireflies, is a whimsically themed Jump Around. Parents can ride with their kids, both of whom seem to giggle immensely as the frog vehicles begin their hopping in a circle. Of note, not only is this ride completely covered in a beautiful pavilion but queuing for all rides in Wildwood Grove is shaded.

Dragonflier, a Vekoma family inverted coaster (above) soars over Wildwood Grove. Visitors of all ages climb aboard friendly bears on Black Bear Trail from Metallbau Emmeln. The Giant Tree Swing (far right) is one of three rides provided by Zamperla. AT/TIM BALDWIN

A bridge crossing over Wildwood Creek gives views of an unquestionable slam dunk. Any warm day will find young children jumping and engaging in wet play with pop jets and splash pools. Surprising to many adults, kids are captivated by this understated addition. "I had to drag my son out of there. He had no intention of leaving," one parent told *AT*.

"We have seating for about 2,000 people in the area," said **Pete Owens**, VP, marketing, The Dollywood Company. "There was a lot of thought that went into guest comfort. You'll find charging stations throughout all the seating areas."

Adjacent to the creek is a musical area where kids can explore instruments and musical sounds.

Black Bear Trail is a Pony Trek ride from **Metallbau Emmeln**. Once aboard the back of a black bear, family members bob up and down as they journey through the landscaping. Metallbau is represented in the U.S. by **Ride Entertainment**.

"We love the Pony Trek because it truly is a unique ride that suits all ages. At Dollywood we watched just as many teenagers and senior citizens hop on the rides as children, which means that it has amazing appeal," said **Adam Sandy**, president, business development, Ride Entertainment. "This is the fifth Pony Trek to open in North America."

Past Mountain Grove Merchants, which sells a wide range of Wildwood Grove paraphernalia, a **Larson International** Flying Scooters, puts the control of the ride in the hands of its passengers. Dubbed Mad Mockingbird, the vehicles are decorated with blue birds taking riders on their flight.

"We were proud to be a part of this great project at Dollywood," said **Hunter Novotny**, engineer, Larson Intl. "Of all the rides installed, Mad Mockingbird, our Flying Scooters, provides an interactive component to riding, letting the families control their level of thrills. It's a great fit."

Across the pathway is an adult oasis — an indoor kids' zone. Adults can sit back on the cushioned couches in air-conditioned comfort as young children run, play and burn off energy. The 4,000-square-foot, climate-controlled Hidden

See WILDWOOD, page 10

Sail into the sky with a smile!
LARSON
INTERNATIONAL
INC.
PO BOX 638 • PLAINVIEW, TEXAS 79072 • (806) 293-1353 • LARSONINTL.COM

WILDWOOD
Continued from page 8

Hollow not only offers a respite from the weather, no matter what the conditions, it also features its own thematic flair with woods projected on the walls and fireflies caught in jars suspended from the ceiling. **Soft Play LLC** provided the equipment.

At the back end of Wildwood Grove is its biggest thrill, Dragonflier. This family suspended coaster from **Vekoma Rides** is a crowd pleaser. Guests young and old disembark proclaiming how smooth and exhilarating the ride is, encouraging all family members to ride. From its first drop, the train drops into an underground tunnel. Emerging in a dramatic overbanked turn, the train continues to soar through curves and spirals. Track length is 1,486 feet.

"I was in close contact with the Dollywood team. To install the coaster on site was a challenge since the coaster is [situated] on the edge of the hilly area," said **Peter van Bilsen**, executive VP, marketing, Vekoma. "The park did a fantastic job. They removed tons of rock and soil to make a flat area to install the rides."

Dollywood added its own enhancement to the trains with netting attached to the sides of the vehicles. Through testing, the park determined the addition would catch most objects in the rare case that a loose article was dropped.

It could easily be said that the centerpiece to Wildwood Grove is the Wildwood Tree. Built by **LifeFormations** and partnering with **Imagination House** for the show element, the fanciful tree is adorned with 650 lighted butterflies and almost 9,000 leaves. On nights that the park is open later, a nighttime experience of light and music weaves tales from park namesake, **Dolly Parton**. Families will be drawn to its leafy canopy as butterflies add to the tree's colorful glow.

"That was my baby," Brennan said, responding to what has been most meaningful. "To watch that tree develop over the period of time and to guide that process and to see it come to reality, that has been the biggest thrill to me. It was an emotional moment."

Fireflies in jars hang above Soft Play activities inside Hidden Hollow. Vekoma's Dragonflier smoothly dives below ground before emerging above Wildwood Grove. AT/TIM BALDWIN

Not to be outdone by this manmade marvel, nature also plays a huge role in Wildwood Grove. More than $1 million in landscaping was invested into the area. More than 400 trees and 2,300 shrubs create a beautiful and natural atmosphere. As magnificent as the area is now, as the landscaping continues to mature, the grove will become even more welcoming.

"We hand selected the rocks, and the individual trees and species are native to the Smoky Mountains," said Owens. "During the heat of the summer or the cold of the winter, it would look correct. We're about an authentic Smoky Mountain experience."

"We wanted it to be very cohesive to the whole land," added Brennan. "If you look at the vernacular of the architecture, it has a motif in the shutters … there is a nature theme and nature feel to it. We didn't want it to feel like a fantasy land; we wanted it to be an extension of what Dollywood is home to."

Strolling through the section, guests might even notice that Wildwood Grove has its own orchestrated soundtrack. Parton's "Love Is Like a Butterfly" has been remade as the area's signature song.

"When I was a little girl growing up in the hills of the Smoky Mountains, I'd often let my imagination just run away — something I still do now — dreaming these big dreams about what it'd be like to venture off with a family of bears in to the woods or how fun it would be to hitch a ride with the butterflies and dragonflies," Parton said at Wildwood Grove's opening. "All us kids would splash and play in the creeks and ponds around home and have these daydreams about the world around us, and that's what's so special about Wildwood Grove."

•dollywood.com

Musicians play below Treetop Tower while Zamperla's Frogs & Fireflies ride (right) delights families under a covered pavilion. AT/TIM BALDWIN

Six Flags Great Adventure powers up solar energy

JACKSON, N.J. — **Six Flags Great Adventure** and its partner **KDC Solar** announced that the 23.5-megawatt solar project built and operated by KDC Solar is complete and the theme park is now almost fully-powered by solar energy. The project ranks as New Jersey's largest net metered solar project and distinguishes Six Flags Great Adventure as one of the world's first solar-powered theme parks.

"This project represents a giant step toward becoming a net-zero carbon facility," said **John Winkler**, Six Flags Great Adventure president. "Clean energy is right for the environment and our future, and we look forward to decades of environmental stewardship with our partner, KDC Solar."

The project includes 11 MW of solar carports over three parking lots; 12.5 MW on 40 acres of ground-mounted solar panels and net metering system that allows Six Flags to generate its own clean energy, exporting power into the grid to serve nearby homes and businesses.

The environmental impact of the project also involved the preservation of more than 200 acres of forest, wetlands and wetlands transition areas.

The Jackson theme park recycles more than 60 percent of its annual waste, including manure, paper, plastic, wood and mixed garbage. In addition, it has been converting to recycled furniture products, such as tables and park benches comprised of recycled plastic. The theme park eliminated the use of paper towels in favor of energy-efficient hand dryers and is firmly committed to other energy-saving programs.

"We are continually searching for new ways to operate more efficiently and enhance our role as good stewards of the environment," Winkler said.

"Six Flags demonstrated its unwavering commitment to clean, solar power by its steadfast partnership with us throughout this process," state **Alan Epstein**, president and CEO of KDC Solar.

•sixflags.com/greatadventure

Solar carports are just part of Six Flags Great Adventure's conversion to full solar power. COURTESY SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE

Sally's Mystic Mansion opens at The Park at Owa

FOLEY, Ala. — The Park at OWA opened its newest attraction in mid-June. The interactive Sally Corporation dark ride, Mystic Mansion, features 15 scenes filled with neon colors, black lights and a spooky story line. COURTESY THE PARK AT OWA

REGISTER FOR THE WWA SHOW AT WALT DISNEY WORLD® RESORT

THE WWA SHOW brings you face to face with some of the most brilliant people working in waterparks and waterpark resorts all over the world. Reenergize yourself and your business by attending our high-impact educational programs and networking with our innovative exhibitors. Visit WWAShow.org to book your room at *Disney's Coronado Springs* Resort and get registered today. Questions? Call +1-913-599-0300.

WORLD WATERPARK ASSOCIATION SHOW
OCTOBER 7-10, 2019
WALT DISNEY WORLD® RESORT
LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLORIDA, U.S.A.

WWASHOW.ORG

PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

▸ C.J. Barrymore's adds four attractions — page 20 / SeaWorld San Antonio unveils Turtle Reef — page 28

Gould provides Kings Mills Antique Autos for Kings Island

AT: *Tim Baldwin*
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

MASON, Ohio — With only three years until reaching a half-century milestone, **Kings Island** outside Cincinnati understands the importance of park history. Additions and improvements for 2019 have been heavily influenced by the past. Some are more minor in their impact, but longtime fans will embrace the respect paid to the memories that were created as Kings Islands' audience continues to become a multi-generational property.

A beloved favorite has returned to the park this season — an auto ride.

"Before we brought back Kings Mills Antique Autos, it was the most requested ride to return to Kings Island," said **Chad Showalter**, director of public relations. "We're glad to have it back and it has been very well received by our guests."

Making space for a new roller coaster installation, the park's original car ride closed following the 2004 season. Some fans will remember the *Brady Bunch* kids or members of *The Partridge Family* driving the cars in classic television episodes or even enjoying the drive in their own childhood.

"Taking a trip on [the ride] is not only like taking a trip through memory lane, but we added to that by including nods to former attractions and the area Kings Mills Antique Autos is in," said Showalter.

The gas station is named after The Zodiac, a dual arm

▸ See AUTOS, page 13

Lego Movie World an 'awesome' addition to Legoland Florida

AT: *David Fake*
Special to Amusement Today

The colorful Lego Movie World is an impressive and eye-catching addition to Legoland Florida. Characters from *The Lego Movie* and *The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part* greet guests at Legoland Florida Resort (right). COURTESY LEGOLAND FLORIDA; AT/DAVID FAKE

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — **Legoland Florida Resort** recently opened The Lego Movie World land, the largest addition to the park since its opening in October 2011, and "Everything is Awesome!," the earworm and theme song from *The Lego Movie*, certainly applies. *AT* spent an afternoon with Legoland Florida Resort's, **Shawn Mikus**, head of public relations, to check out the land and its blockbuster movie -inspired attractions.

The creative masterminds at **Merlin Magic Making**, the global creative and delivery division of Legoland's parent company **Merlin Entertainments Group**, in partnership with **Warner Bros. Consumer Products**, have brought an immersive, one-of-a-kind experience to life in Lego Movie World inspired by the characters and themes of the worldwide blockbusters *The Lego Movie* and *The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part*. The area is populated with three attractions: The Lego Movie Masters of Flight, the first installation of **Brogent Technologies** m-Ride Flying Theater; Unikitty's Disco Drop, a **Zierer** custom-themed Family Tower; and Battle of Bricksburg, a newly reimagined **Mack Rides** Splash Battle attraction, which previously operated at the park as Quest for Chi from 2013 to 2018.

"The Lego Movie World will provide guests around the world with the ultimate movie-to-theme park experience," said **Keith Carr**, project director of Merlin Magic Making. "Kids and families alike can interact with various characters and enjoy ride technology that's the first of its kind."

The Lego Movie Masters of Flight takes guests on a 4-D suspended ride aboard Emmet's Triple Decker Couch surrounded by a full-dome virtual screen, giving the sensational feeling of flying through a world created completely from Lego bricks. The ride features a humorous trip through the movies' Cloud Cuckoo Land, Middle Zealand and Pirate's Cove complete with different smells, cotton candy, pine woods, and sea salt air, representative of each land visited. Unique to Brogent Technologies m-Ride Flying Theater is a 180-degree turn in the ride experience.

Unlike other similar attractions, guests do not board the attraction in a theater facing a projection screen. Instead, guests are directed to one of the three floors of the attraction for a brief preshow before boarding a tier of the couch in a long, narrow room facing a wall. It is only upon the start of the attraction that the individual couches swing out into the theater and face the projection screen. This unique design of a flying theater provides a big reveal moment, eliminating staring at a blank or stagnant screen projection prior to the ride's commencement.

Unikitty's Disco Drop takes guests through a rainbow-filled journey based on Unikitty and her many moods. Guests swoop to the tiptop of Cloud Cuckoo Land, then drop, spin and bounce their way back down to earth. The attraction creates a thrilling and frenzied experience for riders and non-riders alike thanks to a digital screen atop the attraction which reflects Unikitty's mood via expressions displayed throughout the ride. Legoland Florida was not afraid to include a green-faced, queasy expression toward the end of the ride cycle in the mix with happiness and laughter, a topic that Mikus admits was heavily discussed in the design process.

"Kids are honest about their feelings, so unlike other parks whose demographic is outside of the 2-12 age group, we decided Unikitty's expressions should be honest, too," he said.

Battle of Bricksburg is the only get-you-soaked water ride in the park outside of the water park section. In this new overlay of the attraction, riders are challenged to stop Duplo aliens from invading and stealing Lego bricks by spraying water at targets from their boats. Outside of the ride are water cannons for guests to spray and help the riders save the day, free of charge.

Complimenting the three ride-based attractions are Emmet's Super Suite, a character meet-and-greet experience where guests can hang out with Emmet and all of his friends inside his apartment; the Taco ~~Tuesday~~ Everyday eatery, which, as the name implies, makes every day taco Tuesday; The Awesome Shop, a themed store filled with take-home memories from the film franchise; a space-themed playground structure inspired by Benny's spaceship; and a life-size Lego model of Rex Dangervest his blue dino chum, Rex-o-saurus.

"We couldn't be more excited to open The Lego Movie World. (The land) is a key piece to our expansion and growth as we further cement ourselves as a multi-day destination," stated **Rex Jackson**, Legoland Florida's general manager, during the area's March opening.

Opened in 2015, the Legoland Florida Hotel has a new Pirate Island themed wing opening in 2020 and recently opened the hotel-guests-only attraction, **Wild Side Mini Golf** on the shore of Lake Eloise. The nine-hole course is complete with Lego models of some of the Sunshine State's most unique inhabitants and offers guests and their families the opportunity to learn about the Lego-represented wildlife while completing the course.

Mikus noted that attendance has already significantly increased year-to-date as a result of the new land, and he hinted that additional resort expansions and attractions are already in the works, beyond the new hotel wing for next year.

• legoland.com/florida

Supplied by Gould Manufacturing, Kings Mills Antique Autos lets drivers journey through landscaping, buildings and bridges. Clever signs and billboards give nods to rides past and present throughout the journey (above left). AT/TIM BALDWIN; GARY SLADE

AUTOS

Continued from page 12

Ferris wheel that originally stood in the park in the 1970s. The Racer roller coaster and retired Wild Animal Safari also receive some Easter Egg references in "advertisements" during the drive. Aside from the clever signage, the interior of the ride, as well as the front of the entrance, is beautifully landscaped. Drivers pass by colorful flower arrangements, see fountains and water features, and cross bridges to make for an aesthetically engaging driving experience. The Racer itself serves as a backdrop.

"I've never met a more dedicated landscaping department anywhere else in my career," said Showalter. "They live and breathe beautifying the park."

When *Amusement Today* asked what took the park to **Gould Manufacturing** for the supplier of the new ride, Showalter said, "When we made the decision to return an auto attraction, we looked to our other parks that had recently added similar attractions. They had good experiences with Gould Manufacturing; they were very reliable. That's important to us."

Real life has a cute way of creeping in. "While driving, you are not allowed to text or use your phone," smiled Showalter. As the ride attendant releases control of the car, the message of Don't Text and Drive is repeated to every guest behind the wheel.

More connections to the past are felt throughout the park this season. A restored glockenspiel clock at the Festhaus, footprints painted on the walkway and new queue signage celebrating the 40th anniversary of The Beast, and an impressive makeover to the iconic fountain "first impression" experience have all taken place. The new fountains are now choreographed to music and the nightly fireworks. International Street alongside the fountains has been widened incorporating 130,000 new pavers. Each international-themed building was repainted, and special detailing was added to each façade. The second-story International Restaurant is also seeing new opportunities throughout the year to be used once again under the guidance of new executive chef **James Major**. An international buffet was created for the park's Grande Carnivale festival this summer.

A perfect pairing with Kings Mills Antique Autos was to bring back the wow to the fountains," said Showalter, emphasizing the importance of guest memories. "People from here are very proud of Kings Island."

• **visitkingsisland.com**

FAST FACTS

Length of track:
More than a quarter mile in length and takes approximately 3 minutes to ride.

•

Number of cars:
Up to 16 autos operate at a single time.

•

Hourly capacity:
Approximately 450 – 500

•

Engines:
Gas powered.

•

Height requirements:
Guests must be a minimum of 48 inches tall to ride alone; smaller guests may be accompanied by a supervising companion. Hand-held infants are not permitted.

•

Safety features:
A shared seatbelt secures all riders. Operators have the ability to stop all vehicles at one time, or just a single vehicle, if necessary.

Transporting families back to a simpler time

Congratulations to

Kings Island

for the addition of the

Gould Antique Auto Ride

Gould Manufacturing

Over 50 Years of Amusement Industry Experience

www.gouldmanufacturing.com

email: info@gouldmanufacturing.com

SeaWorld San Diego's Tidal Twister throws fun-seekers a curve

Skyline Attractions' Skywarp Horizon delivers flip with zip

AT: *Dean Lamanna*
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

Tidal Twister zips through its course at 30-plus mph, inverting mid-course. Features include vehicles that rise sideways for level loading and safety panels that lift to prevent riders from accessing the non-platform side. AT/DEAN LAMANNA; COURTESY SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO — With last year's unveiling of Electric Eel, a **Premier Rides** triple-launch vertical looping coaster, and next year's planned arrival of Mako, a 153-foot-tall **Bolliger & Mabillard** floorless dive coaster, **SeaWorld San Diego** is on a coaster roll.

Tidal Twister, a new ride the park opened to the public on May 24, seems the perfect "side" for this extreme thrill-ride sandwich.

Supplied by Orlando-based **Skyline Attractions, LLC**, the figure-eight-shaped, 300-foot-long single-rail installation offers unique coaster-type fun — complete with a generous, hangtime-generating inversion — that can appeal to, and accommodate, more members of the family.

"It provides its own little kick in the pants," said **David Koontz**, park director of communications, in a chat with *Amusement Today* at the ride's May 21 media preview. "We're promoting it as a roller coaster, but we're also promoting it as one that, due to its lower height requirement [48 inches], is something that enables younger visitors — we might be looking at kids who are in the second grade — to ride. What's great is that they have the opportunity to experience riding it with their family."

Tidal Twister is Skyline's prototype Skywarp Horizon, a horizontal version of the company's Skywarp, which made its debut last summer as Harley Quinn Crazy Coaster at **Six Flags Discovery Kingdom** in Vallejo, Calif. SeaWorld's model has similar dueling-train action with tight curves, plus a single zero-G inversion where the track passes under itself at the center. Accelerating to more than 30 mph, the two 16-passenger vehicles, which technically are part of one linked train system that maintains their separation while moving them around the track, load at opposite ends of the attraction and seat passengers facing forward and backward.

Chris Gray, Skyline founding partner and vice president, told *AT* that the ride's horizontal orientation was inspired by potential clients — including several from Asia — who expressed interest in Skywarp but had different size and site needs.

"We had a lot of people asking for something that would fit into a 30-foot building," said Gray, who noted that the ride has a base price of $2.5-3 million. "So, we basically laid it flat for SeaWorld. We then went back and forth on whether the hump should go under the loop or over the loop. The profiles we did with it positioned under the loop just didn't allow for a really fun experience of the element."

Although the decision to run the inversion underneath sacrificed some of the vehicles' cross-interaction from the passengers' point of view, it created a sharper, more thrilling drop coming off the hump without any loss of the ride's sinuous ground-level visuals. "It's just really pretty," Gray said of the ride, which sports a color scheme of blue and purple hues on hot-pink supports. "Most people have no idea it's one big moving system, but after looking at it for a minute, they figure it out."

Tidal Twister is propelled by kicker plates and three drive tires positioned on each side of the track structure, similar to those found on swinging pirate ships. Because of the ride's 40-degree-banked turns, the vehicles must be tilted sideways up to level platform position for loading / unloading and then, for operation, returned to the track's actual angle — all in an electrically-powered manner akin to that of a **Schwarzkopf** Bayern Kurve ride.

"This is the first coaster I've worked on that really feels like a machine," said Gray, a U.S. Navy veteran with a technical drawing and drafting degree who spent 12 years rising through the ranks at Sudbury, Pa.-based **Great Coasters International, Inc.**, prior to co-founding Skyline. "It looks like a coaster and acts like a coaster, but it's got so many other things going on — including big panels on the [inner-track] side of the trains that come up to block riders from stepping all the way across."

Tidal Twister's horizontal orientation and location between the park's Bayside Amphitheater and Aquaria: World of Fishes aquarium are a boon to SeaWorld not only in light of **California Coastal Commission**-imposed height restrictions (the ride is a mere 16 feet high), but because of local noise ordinances.

"With the amphitheater there beside it, the noise is blocked from going across the bay," Gray said. "At SeaWorld's request, we filled the ride's box beam with pea gravel to further deaden the noise. It's something done on a lot of coasters with big box beams just to tone it down a little bit. There's a resonance that can get started inside of them that will just harmonize itself into a roar."

From initial inquiry to operating ride, Skyline completed Tidal Twister in what Gray described as a "pretty intense" turnaround period. "We were finishing up Harley Quinn, and SeaWorld said, 'Hey, there's an interest in one of these, but it's got to happen fast.' The team took it from concept to real-life running in about nine months."

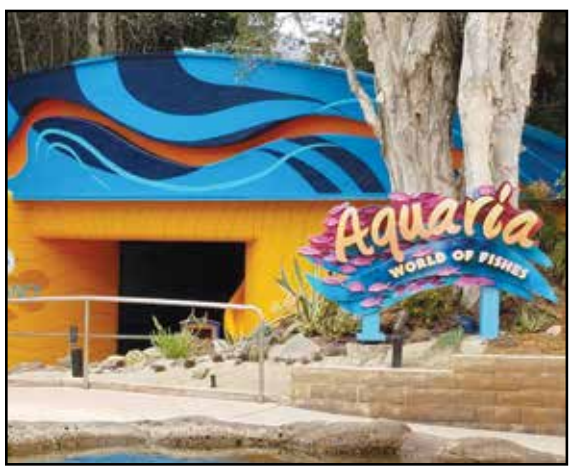
He added that Tidal Twister, with its less-intimidating size and fewer wild moments, makes a good fit for the park.

"I honestly think it'll be a lot of kids' first looping coaster in this area," said Gray, whose first looping coaster ride growing up was Greezed Lightnin' at the late **Six Flags Astroworld** in Houston.

As with all major SeaWorld ride openings, Tidal Twister is accompanied by a conservation component. The adjacent, newly refreshed Aquaria touch tank and aquarium feature elements encouraging oceanic conservation from **Rising Tide Conservation**, a collaborative aquaculture research effort SeaWorld launched in 2009. It seeks a sustainable alternative to the collection of ornamental wild fish, a practice that can damage coral reefs.

The park, which saw a reported 20 percent jump in attendance after the opening of Electric Eel last year, continues to procure all needed approvals for Mako before it can break ground on that coaster project. It recently completed a repainting of Journey to Atlantis, a 2004-built **Mack Rides** water coaster.

• seaworld.com/san-diego



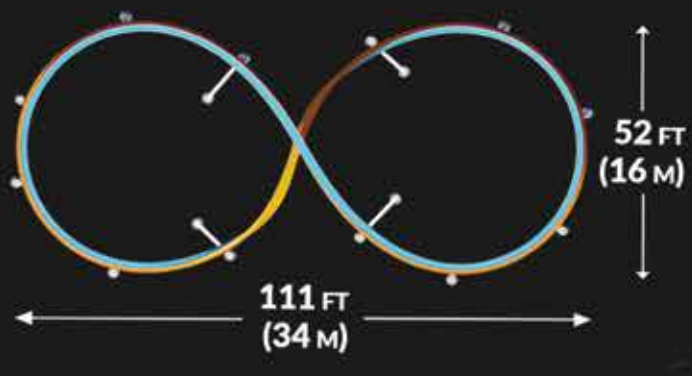
Sporting new paint jobs this summer are the 15-year-old Journey to Atlantis water coaster (shown undergoing testing in May) and, now part of the Tidal Twister attraction area in the park's northwest corner, Aquaria: World of Fishes. AT/DEAN LAMANNA

Thank you, SeaWorld San Diego!

Home to the world's first Skywarp Horizon!

*SeaWorld San Diego is now home to one of the newest and most-anticipated thrill rides of 2019, a **Skywarp Horizon**!*

Contact us today to discuss adding one of these revolutionary rides to your location!



Watch it now!
SkywarpHorizon.com

SKYLINE
ATTRACTIONS, LLC
ORLANDO, FL USA

+1 407-587-0080 WWW.SKYLINEATTRACTIONS.COM

Islands of Adventure sets the bar high with new Hagrid motorbike coaster

AT: *David Fake*
Special to Amusement Today

The life-size Hagrid animated figure (left) is Universal Orlando's most realistic and elaborate to date. At the ride's opening, Harry Potter stars rode with guests on Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure (right). COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT

ORLANDO, Fla. — Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure opened to the public on June 13 to rave reviews following a preview reception. Those in attendance for the preview event, as well as the die-hard Harry Potter fans who braved the opening day Florida heat, thunderstorms, and wait times in excess of 10 hours, praised the attraction for its unique combination of thills, storytelling, and its immersive theming. The response to the attraction has many industry insiders wondering if **Universal Orlando Resort**'s **Islands of Adventure** newest attraction has set a new standard for themed attractions.

Next-level storytelling and immersion are what guests should expect from what the park has claimed is a first-of-its-kind "story coaster." The **Intamin Amusement Rides** coaster features themed motorbike/sidecar vehicles and innovative technology that have been seamlessly integrated into the attraction's surrounding environments. To accomplish the effect of being transporting into the Forbidden Forrest, an actual 1,200-tree forest was created for the winding, diving, low-profile, seven-launch coaster to traverse along its 5,053 feet of track — the most launches on any coaster in the world and longest of any coaster in Florida. The coaster also features multiple indoor and outdoor show scenes and effects.

The journey begins as guests join Hagrid's Care of Magical Creatures class and enter mysterious ruins, lain abandoned for centuries behind Hagrid's hut and nestled on the edge of one of the Forbidden Forest. The ruins were imagined and brought to life by Universal's award-winning Creative team in collaboration with the films' production designer, **Stuart Craig**, and art director, **Alan Gilmore**. Hagrid now uses the ruins for groundskeeping at Hogwarts. It is in these ruins where guests' Care of Magical Creatures class begins.

With Hagrid as their guide, guests board magical motorbikes — riding on either the motorbike or in the adjacent sidecar — and feel the freedom of flight as they journey into the forest to discover the Wizarding World's rarest magical creatures. They ascend above the trees, rapidly accelerate through the ruins, rush forward, and backward at speeds up to 50 mph on an unforgettable adventure with a few surprises along the way, including:

•Coming face-to-face with some of the Wizarding World's rarest magical creatures, such as a majestic Centaur, a swarm of mischievous Cornish pixies, Fluffy, the three-headed dog, Blast-Ended Skrewts, and unicorns

•Being catapulted 65 feet in the air at a more than 70-degree angle — and then immediately dropping backward

•Becoming entangled in a thicket of Devil's Snare before vertically free-falling nearly 17 feet to escape the perilous plant

Guests also encounter Hagrid himself as the most hyper-realistic animated figure Universal Orlando has ever created, and at 7 feet, 6 inches tall, the figure is exactly proportional to Hagrid in the film series. Hagrid's animated figure was brought to life by Universal Creative. The team spent thousands of hours creating Hagrid's animated figure with a level of detail that has never been done before, working alongside actor **Robbie Coltrane**, who portrays Hagrid in the Harry Potter film series. "Hagrid is such an iconic character and an integral part of the franchise, so we were excited to develop a truly innovative and authentic animated figure to bring him to life for this experience," said **Thierry Coup**, senior vice president of Universal Creative. "We worked tirelessly to make sure Hagrid's full essence was captured with the utmost attention to detail for our guests to feel completely immersed in this all-new adventure."

Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure's ruins/queue have been repurposed from the site's predecessor, Dueling Dragons, one of Islands of Adventure's signature opening-day attractions. That previous attraction consisted of two distinctly different inverted steel coasters by **Bolliger & Mabillard**, Fire (red) and Ice (blue). Dueling Dragons was later rethemed and reopened as Dragon Challenge, Chinese Fireball (red) and the Hungarian Horntail (blue), as part of the new land, The Wizarding World of Harry Potter – Hogsmeade, in 2010. The two coasters were permanently closed and demolished in late 2017 to make way for Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure. Those with a keen eye will spot the faint image of a fading mural that pays homage to the location's previous residents, a pair of red and blue dueling dragons along with the words "Dueling Club."

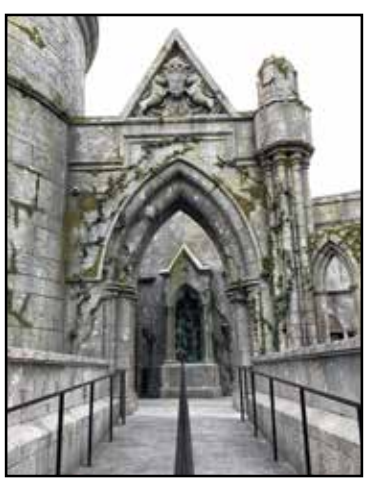
During the Potter-star-studded preview reception, **Tom Williams**, chairman and CEO of Universal Parks and Resorts gave opening statements for the attraction's grand opening celebration. "We are all blessed at Universal Parks and Resorts to have Harry Potter attractions at our parks all over the world, but I'm here to tell you — and it isn't much of a secret — Orlando is the capitol of Harry Potter," he said, pointing to the fact that the partnership between Universal and JK Rowling's Harry Potter IP began at Universal Orlando where now there are Potter themed lands and attractions in both Islands of Adventure and **Universal Studios Florida**.

Joining Williams at the event were stars **Tom Felton** (Draco Malfoy), **Evanna Lynch** (Luna Lovegood), **Warwick Davis** (Professor Flitwick) and **James** and **Oliver Phelps** (Fred & George Weasley) to celebrate the opening of the attraction. Coltrane, while not present, was represented through a prerecorded video.

To prepare the way and clear Hagrids supplies for tending magical creatures that were impeding entry to the attraction and obscuring its entrance, guests were invited to join the actors and wave their wands while reciting the iconic "Wingardium Leviosa" spell. With a swish and flick the trunks, storage containers and boxes magically flew away, Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure officially opening with a touch of Wizarding World magic. "I'm excited to welcome you to this new chapter of magic here at The Wizarding World of Harry Potter," said Coltrane. "Be sure to hang onto your motorbike, and most importantly, have fun everyone."

It is no secret that **Universal Parks and Resorts** had magic on their side when they originally penned an exclusive partnership with **Warner Bros.** and **J.K. Rowling**'s Wizarding World franchise for the Harry Potter IP, and that spell was only reinforced when **NBCUniversal** bought the exclusive film rights from WB in 2016, which included the ability to expand the Potter presence in its parks. Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure is the first attraction fully developed under that new ownership agreement. Theme park enthusiasts and Potter fans alike are excited to see what the wizards at Universal Parks and Resorts and Universal Creative are already conjuring up as a follow-up.

•**universalorlando.com**



Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure features seven different launch moments (left). Both the coaster and the queue offer heavily-themed mysterious ruins (middle) on the edge of the Forbidden Forest, which riders soar and dive through (right). AT/DAVID FAKE

Unique collaboration for 'Twilight' saga, 'Hunger Games' attractions

VANCOUVER, B.C. — Thinkwell Group has partnered with CAVU Designwerks Inc., DreamCraft Attractions Ltd. and Framestore to develop two new rides showcasing the Lionsgate film properties of *Hunger Games* (left) and *Twilight* (right). The attractions will launch later in 2019 at China's Lionsgate Entertainment World, an indoor immersive entertainment destination featuring VR, AR, and multimedia attractions.
COURTESY CAVU DESIGNWERKS

Topgolf Swing Suite added to Fun Spot America

FAYETTEVILLE, Ga. — **Fun Spot America Atlanta** opened Fayetteville's first **Topgolf Swing Suite** on May 30 at the Georgia fun park.

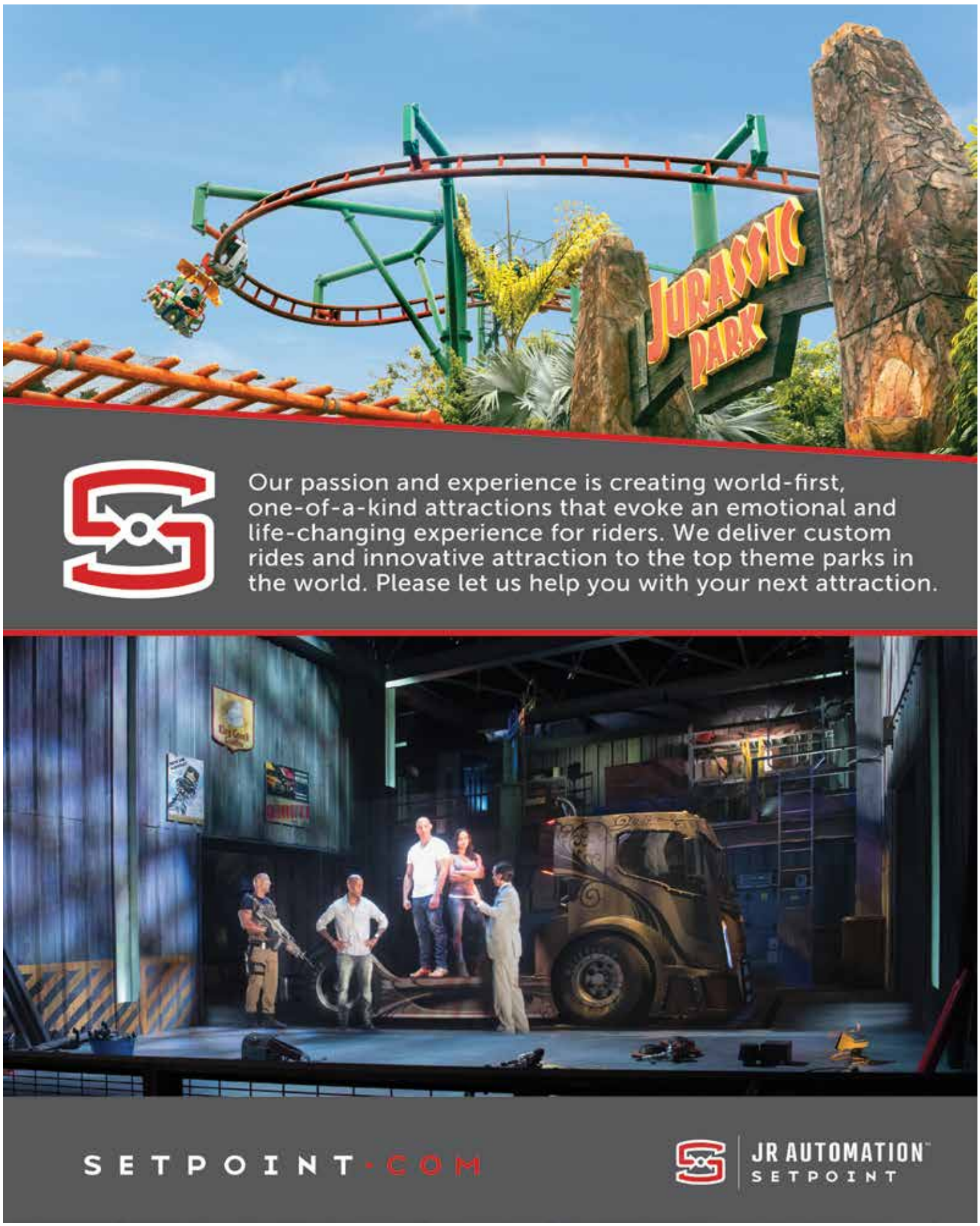
Complete with a 1950s diner theme, the Topgolf Swing Suite features two simulator bays and a variety of virtual games — including the popular Topgolf target game, Zombie Dodgeball, Hockey Shots, Baseball Pitching and Carnival Classic — paired with comfortable lounge seating, HDTVs, food and beverage service.

"I am so excited to partner with **Topgolf** on this project," said **John Arie, Jr.,** CEO of **Fun Spot America Theme Parks**. "Whether it's raining, cold, hot or beautiful outside, we have something for everyone year-round. This new 1950s diner theme and Topgolf Swing Suite offer a completely new menu, featuring some of my favorite foods."

Up to eight people can play, eat, drink and hang out in each bay of the Swing Suite. The space is available to rent for business and social gatherings, birthday parties, bachelorette/bachelor parties, team building events and corporate meetings.

"We are proud to partner with Fun Spot America Theme Parks to provide a new kind of interactive social experience that entertains visitors of all ages and skill levels in Fayetteville and the Atlanta area," said **Ron Powers,** president of Topgolf Swing Suite. "Powered by **Full Swing** simulators, the games are designed for both non-golfers and golfers alike, so everyone can have a great time."

• **funspotamericaatlanta.com**


JURASSIC PARK
Our passion and experience is creating world-first, one-of-a-kind attractions that evoke an emotional and life-changing experience for riders. We deliver custom rides and innovative attraction to the top theme parks in the world. Please let us help you with your next attraction.
SETPOINT.COM
JR AUTOMATION
SETPOINT

AMUSEMENT PARK MARKET PLACE

Aerial Tramway Design & Manufacture

SkyTrans Mfg.,L.L.C.

106 Burnham Intervale Road
Contoocook, N.H. 03229
Phone: (603) 746-4446 Fax: (603) 746-4447

- Specializing in sales & refurbishment of used aerial tramways
- Replacement parts for aerial tramways and amusement rides
- New ride control systems and modifications
- Rebuilt used chairlifts - one year guarantee

Parts and Service (603) 746-4446 Dan Pendleton

XINSURANCE
for life unexpected
POWERED BY EVOLUTION INSURANCE BROKERS, LC
Customized Insurance Coverage for the Amusement & Recreation Industry
For a free quote, call 877.585.2853 or email quotes@xinsurance.com * www.xinsurance.com

WAPELLO is the One!
Built in the USA to Your Needs!

Let Wapello high-performance products go to work for you. Give us a call or write today. Custom sizes, shapes and colors.

Wapello Fabrications Company
201 North Second Street • Wapello, IA 52653
(319) 523-8371 • wafabco@louisacomm.net
WAPELLO

Keep our amusement park industry strong!
Buy products and services from these suppliers.

Park Post-its

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

The Vessel, a 150-foot-tall, shiny sculptural bauble, is one of the first public pieces to debut at **Hudson Yards**, a mega project rising on the far west side of New York City's Manhattan. This interactive artwork was imagined by **Thomas Heatherwick** and **Heatherwick Studio** as a focal point where people can enjoy new perspectives of the city and one another from different heights, angles and vantage points.

Comprised of 154 intricately interconnecting flights of stairs, almost 2,500 individual steps and 80 landings, the nearly one mile of vertical climb offers remarkable views of the city, the river and beyond.

Admission is free but guests will need a ticket. This is to make sure that the sculpture does not exceed its capacity and to help crowd control.

Hudson Yards is a $25 billion project that will bring new skyscrapers, a huge shopping mall and a new performing arts center to the city, among other features.

•

Zoo officials at the **Minnesota Zoo**, Apple Valley, are taking steps toward creating a display with 20 animatronic dinosaurs now featured at **Valleyfair,** Shakopee, Minn., which is ending its Dinosaurs Alive attraction after this season. The exhibit will have been at Valleyfair for the past six years.

Officials said the life-size, scientifically accurate mechanical creatures would likely be donated to the zoo by **Premier Exhibitions**, which contracts with **Cedar Fair Entertainment Co.**, Valleyfair's parent company, to put the dinosaurs in amusement parks around the country.

Last month, the zoo's board of trustees approved spending $1.2 million on contracts that would make the exhibit possible. Those contracts would pay for the animated dinosaurs, some of which are 70 feet long, to be taken apart, moved to Apple Valley and assembled in their new home by spring 2020, when the exhibit would debut.

The deal is not final right now, but officials hope all will be in place so Minnesota Zoo visitors may enjoy the exhibit in 2020.

•

Visitors to **Dreamworld**, the theme park located along the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia, are having the opportunity to experience a winter wonderland this season during the park's Winterfest celebration that started June 29 and will run through July 21.

The theme park has been transformed and includes a unique walk-through snow-globe, a tobogganing slope, an ice-skating rink in the **Dreamworld Exhibition Centre** and much more.

Dreamworld spokesperson **Paul Callander** was quoted as saying during the announcement about Winterfest: "Winter is coming to Dreamworld. Since our winter days on the Gold Coast are more like a cool summer's day globally, we wanted to bring the traditional white winter to our neck of the woods."

•

While officials at Dreamworld are bringing in snow to the Gold Coast, officials at **Seabreeze Amusement Park**, Rochester, N.Y., also are adding something new this year. But it isn't snow or cold.

Officials at Seabreeze announced last month a new chaperone policy. On Saturdays and Sundays throughout the 2019 season, park visitors 17 years and younger will have to be accompanied by adults at least 21 years old. The goal of the new chaperone policy, according to the announcement, is "to enhance existing safety and security measures on weekends when attendance is highest."

The move was not connected to a particular incident, but rather some concerns expressed by park guests of unsupervised youths in the park. It was a preemptive move.

Each adult chaperone will need to show a photo ID (such as a driver's license, a non-driver ID card, a college ID, a passport, a visa or a military ID) at the gate. The chaperone will be allowed to supervise up to five youths. People who appear to be near the age of 18 will have to show ID at the gate, too.

The chaperone policy does not apply to Season Passport holders or to group sales ticketed events. Seabreeze has been in existence since 1879 and launched its current season on May 18.

•

Adventure Forest, a $2.3 million new play structure and obstacle course of the **Children's Museum of Denver**, opened June 3 to the public. It is a demanding course, but guests say it is worth the effort to reach the top for a 360-degree view of the Denver skyline. The new adventure grew out of an expansion plan, which resulted in Joy Park, a landscaped hill the Children's Museum acquired through a partnership with **Denver Parks & Recreation**.

Like anything sprawling and complicated, Adventure Forest, located at the back of Joy Park, was a group project, its duties shared among the museum's exhibits design team, **Bonsai Design**, former artist-in-residence **Wes Sam-Bruce** (now based in N.Y.) and Denver Parks & Recreation.

Kids must be at least five years old or at least 44 inches tall to participate in the 500-foot-long aerial course, which includes climbing routes, rope swings, bridges, 70-foot slides and a nest that sits 90 feet above the banks of the South Platte River, just southwest of **Elitch Gardens Theme Park and Water Park** also located in Denver.

There is also a narrative about a council of creatures and their forgotten relationship with humans. It features swirling nature imagery on the exterior and curios inside.

Construction began in June of last year and hopes were to have the adventure course open by later in the year. However, nature and the natural materials being used caused some delays resulting in the June 2019 completion.

•

Gillian's Wonderland Pier, Ocean City, N.J., is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. The celebration kicked off last month with the "Wonder's Birthday Bash," named for its mascot, by offering guests discounted tickets and even a fireworks show.

"The fireworks celebration of Wonder's Birthday this year is extra special as we celebrate 90 years of Gillian's on the Ocean City Boardwalk," said **Jay Gillian**, owner of the park.

The amusement park, founded in 1929, has entertained and delighted generations of families and is a tradition for locals and tourists. Gillian is the third generation owner of the park, which was founded by his grandfather, **David Gillian**.

AERIA
AMUSEMENT ENTERTAINMENT RISK INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
JKJ
JOHNSON
KENDALL
JOHNSON
Gene Berger 215.579.6487
Rick D'Aprile 215.579.6488
amusemententertainmentrisk.com
We continue
to serve the
Amusement
Entertainment
Business
Community!

2019 brings four new attractions to C.J. Barrymore's in Michigan

AT: *Pam Sherborne*
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. — **Rick Iceberg**, owner, **C.J. Barrymore's Entertainment,** realizes his attraction facility is morphing, but currently he has no name for what it is becoming. Nor does having a branding name really matter to him right now. What does matter is that the new attractions he put into his park this year have been a tremendous hit.

Greeting guests this season are a 110-foot-tall **Lamberink** wheel, a brand new **SBF-Visa** spinning coaster and a 120-foot-tall, two-ride combo tower with a saddle sling on one side and a four-person seated drop ride on the other from **Soaring Eagle**.

"I feel like we are a step up from a family entertainment center, but we aren't big enough to be an amusement park," Iceberg said. "I guess we are sort of a hybrid."

A new SBF-Visa spinning coaster (top right), a 110-foot-tall Lamberink wheel (above), and a Soaring Eagle 120-foot-tall tower combo ride (bottom right) with a sling ride on one side and a drop on the other all welcome guests at C.J. Barrymore's in 2019. COURTESY C.J. BARRYMORE'S

Iceberg said there has been about $5 million spent in park investments over the last two years adding to the facility that already offered a variety of indoor and outdoor attractions. There is a 36-hole miniature golf course, three different go-kart tracks, rock climbing wall, Euro Bungy, bumper boats and a Soaring Eagle Zipline.

There is 50,000-square-feet of indoor space with bowling, a golf dome, bumper cars, laser tag and 100 arcade games.

Two years ago when Iceberg installed the Soaring Eagle Zipline, he realized the attraction gave the park a new feeling and dimension because of its height.

"That was when we realized the high up thing was really good for us," he said. "We realized the high stuff not only entertains the riders but also the people on the ground."

Iceberg has spent some time looking at attraction options, but didn't want to move too quickly since he didn't know what his market could sustain. It just seemed it all came together for the 2019 season.

First of all, **Stan Checketts** decided to bring in the Soaring Eagle tower.

"He owns it," Iceberg said.

Then **Len Soled, Rides 4 U**, called Iceberg and said he had a brand new spinning coaster that would be great for his park.

"I had been looking for one for about four years," Iceberg said. "I really liked the spinning coaster, because of the footprint size and the fact it hits a really cool market. We have all ages of riders on that thing. I put our staff on it and they were yelling and screaming and having a really good time."

Iceberg also had been looking to purchase a wheel for quite some time.

"I just needed to get a good deal on one," he said.

As fate would have it, he received another call from Soled.

"He told me that **Bill Prescott,** owner of **Broadway at the Beach** in Myrtle Beach, had just purchased a new 150-foot-tall Lamberink wheel and needed to move his 110-foot-tall wheel," Iceberg said. "Len said I think you really need to look at this one. I did and I got a deal on it that I just couldn't refuse. It was only about a year old."

So, four new rides for 2019 and Iceberg said he couldn't be happier with the way the new rides are performed great.

"They have really transformed our facility," he said. "We positioned the new rides in three corners of our lot. You can see the wheel from the road and it looks great with the lights. "

Iceberg said park additions and improvements for 2019 didn't end there. He brought in two new **Mini Melt** locations and "they have been great hits."

"We added new concessions and food stands," he said. "We added a new maintenance garage. It has giving our workers plenty of heated and air conditioned spaces in which to work. I have some great people working here and I just couldn't have done any of this without them."

C.J. Barrymore's started out as a driving range by Iceberg's father, **Roy Iceberg**. He and his brother, Jim Iceberg, worked alongside their dad. Over the years, Iceberg's brother decided on another endeavor. Iceberg does have two partners, **Bob Breitmeyer** and **David Dalpizzol.**

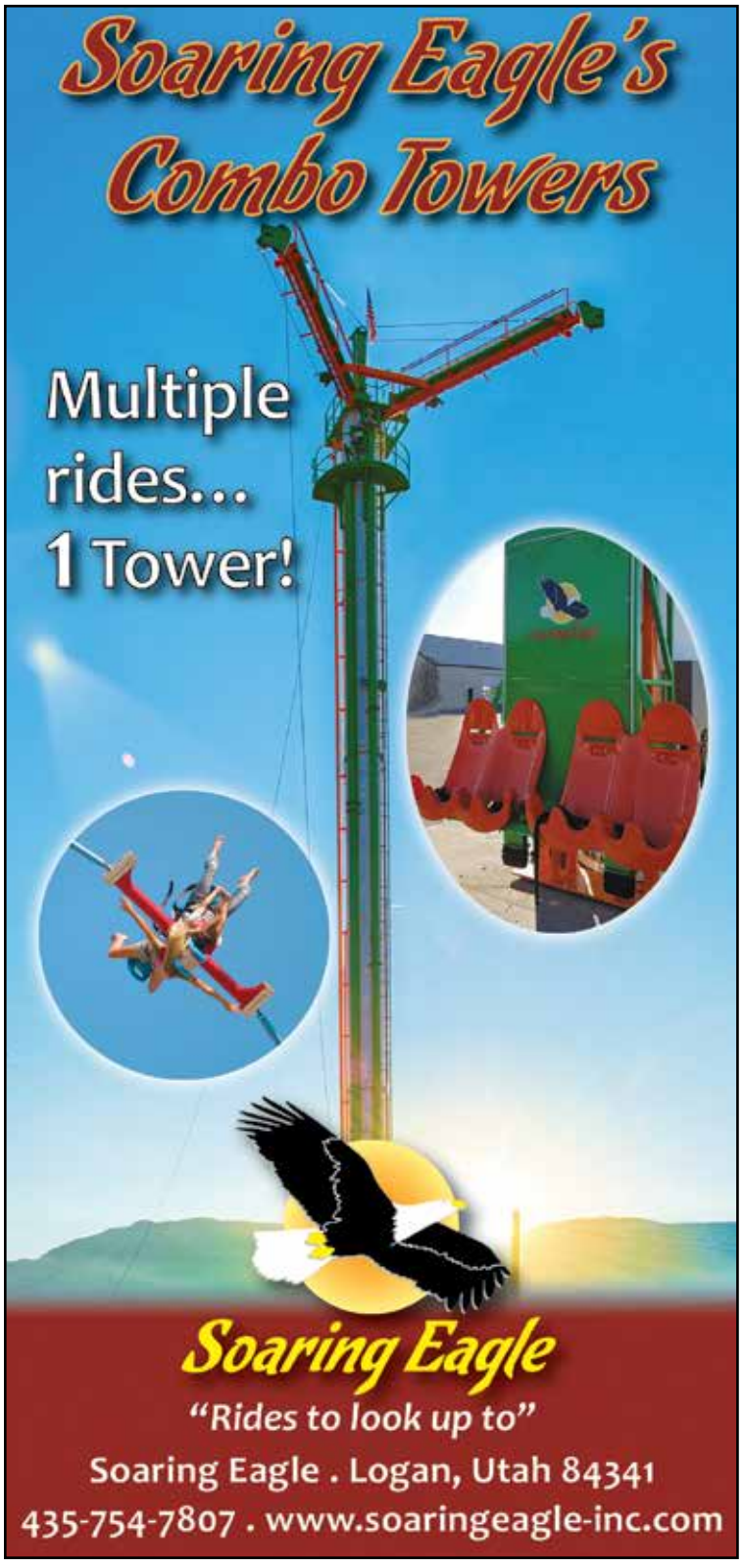
"David started out here as a bus boy," Iceberg said. "He has been a partner for the past 10 years."

Iceberg said there are about 50 full time employees at the attraction. That increases to 350 during the operating season.

"I have about 10 managers and they are great," he said. "My head mechanic, **Wayne Clor**, has been with me for about 10 to 12 years. He spent seven days a week here for six months to get everything up and running for the 2019 season. I couldn't have done it without him."

• cjbarrymores.com

After installing a Soaring Eagle Zipline two years ago, C.J. Barrymore's staff realized the benefits of having a ride overhead. COURTESY C.J. BARRYMORE'S



www.Rides4U.com

The Spinning Times

Rides-4-U • 221 Evans Way, Suite E • Somerville, N.J. 08876 • (908) 526-8009

COMPACT SPINNING COASTER PACKS PUNCH IN SMALL FOOTPRINT

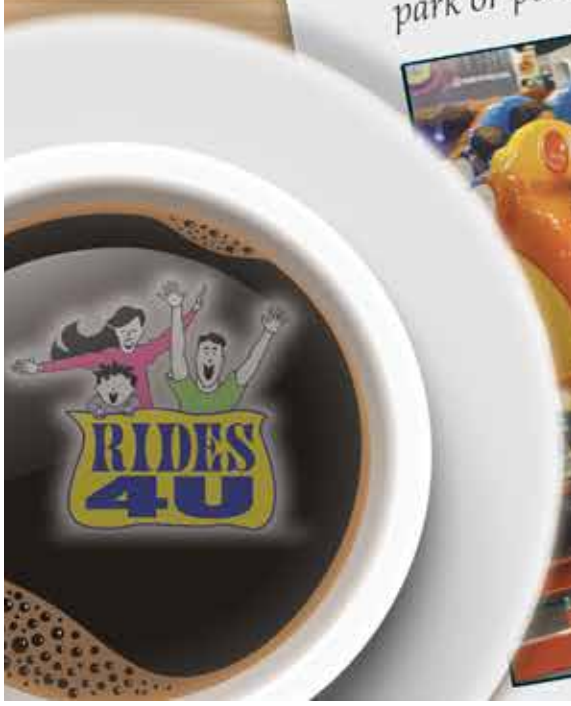
The Visa Compact Spinning Coaster is a family roller coaster with a small footprint by SBF/Visa. Featuring a figure eight track design and free spinning vehicles which gives riders a unique riding experience like no other of its size and type, the fun is different with every ride. Available as both a park or portable model.

Arriving at C.J. Barrymores in Michigan, in 2019, the SBF/Visa *Compact Spinning Coaster* is guaranteed to deliver smiles and excitement to your guests.

Available in a standard figure-8 track layout, or in a larger layout with additional loop, there's a coaster perfect for your facility's space requirements!

Kids and adults alike delight in the random action, high-speed turns, and dynamic spins along the ride. The *Compact Spinning Coaster* is the perfect family attraction to add to any midway!

Contact **Rides-4-U** today for all of the details!



Supplying Amusements New to Used

'The Hunger Games' are in play at MGM Grand exhibit

LAS VEGAS — Following stops in New York, San Francisco and other locations stateside and abroad, an enhanced version of **The Hunger Games: The Exhibition** arrived for an extended stay at the **MGM Grand Hotel & Casino** in May with motion picture-inspired immersive fun — from an archery training experience to movie props, costumes and interactive displays.

The attraction, from Singapore-based entertainment and exhibition company **Cityneon Holdings, Ltd.**, and its subsidiary, **Victory Hill Exhibitions**, is based on the popular **Lionsgate** film franchise, which has grossed over $3 billion globally. It celebrates the epic journey of Katniss Everdeen from her humble beginnings in District 12 to her rise as the Mockingjay.

Offering an exploration of the world of Panem, the experience features several galleries, including the Hall of Justice, President Snow's Office, the Tribute Train and District 13. Along with Katniss's bow and arrows, original costumes worn by the cast are showcased, including the Girl on Fire dress, the Mockingjay gown, Katniss's armor and pin, and Peacekeeper armor and rebellion tactical gear.

Capitol Couture, a retail shop built into the exhibit, stocks exclusive clothing and collectible items. The attraction is located in The District at MGM Grand and is open daily.

•thehungergamesexhibition.com

The Hunger Games: The Exhibition offers visitors an archery training experience in a digital training lab and tests their knowledge of the film franchise at the Capitol TV's Trivia display. COURTESY CITYNEON HOLDINGS, LTD./MGM GRAND

Ocean Cube dives into future

Opened in New York City on June 8, Ocean Cube, the latest in the trend of social media-ready pop-up art installations, welcomes guests into a futuristic deep-sea world inhabited by humans in the year 2119. The exhibit, featuring five elaborately designed rooms and 20 "selfie" spots, is located at 60 Grand St. and runs through Aug. 18. COURTESY OCEAN CUBE

Tussauds' Broadway tribute

NEW YORK — **Madame Tussauds New York** has partnered with **Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group** to launch Madame Tussauds New York Presents Broadway, a new immersive experience.

The interactive exhibit transports visitors behind the scenes of a Broadway show. They can make a pit stop at the Broadway Bar for a cocktail before going backstage through a labyrinth of props into scenes from Webber's productions, including *The Phantom of the Opera, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Evita, Sunset Boulevard* and *Cats.*

"Seeing a show on Broadway is a bucket list requirement for many people," said **Tom Middleton**, general manager at Madame Tussauds New York. "Here, you can be a part of the glamour and see firsthand what it takes to make a Broadway show happen every night."

Lines were quite long on Memorial Day weekend as Reese's Cupfusion opened to the public at Hersheypark. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Enhanced gaming creates Cupfusion

AT: *B. Derek Shaw*
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

HERSHEY, Pa. — Memorial Day weekend marked the dawn of a new day in gaming for the Chocolatetown amusement park operation. **Hersheypark** took the existing Xtreme Cup Challenge (2006-2018) interactive dark ride, housed in a 15,000-square-foot building, (formerly the outdoor skating rink/rides office and first aid during the park season) and raised the stakes to a new level. Cupfusion, located just off Founder's Way, is a completely themed story that puts 540 passengers per hour in the middle of the action during the five-minute ride.

"Hersheypark is the only amusement park with a gaming attraction that merges the world's love of chocolate and peanut butter to create a sweet, full-sensory adventure for the entire family," said **Vikki Hultquist**, general manager, attractions & entertainment. "We hope our first story-based attraction with multiple ways to play encourages guests to ride Reese's Cupfusion all year."

Working with the team at **Sally Corp**, along with **Raven Sun Creative**, they have created a gaming/dark ride point-scoring experience that centers on a battle for control of the Reese's Peanut Butter Cup factory. Riders become a Reese's agent trainee at Reese's Central, a futuristic plant that runs on spirit. At the heart of the factory is the legendary Crystal Cup, which collects and amplifies the love of chocolate and peanut butter to power the factory. The trainee's mission is to protect the Crystal Cup under the guidance of Commander Cup, a new park character. Other new characters like Mint the Merciless and The League of Misfit Candy are on a mission of their own to steal the cup. Unlocking additional features (hidden Easter eggs) raises rider's scores, possibly enough to make it to the Reese's Legends on the Hall of Fame scoreboard outside the attraction for all to see. There are six different kinds of play along with communal game play with Cupfusion.

The basic layout of the ride remains unchanged from the Xtreme Cup days; however the final three hills have been eliminated creating a more-than 75-foot straightaway for the finale experience ending in a surprise for the senses. Ride vehicles have been upgraded by being rewrapped, onboard audio added, and interactive amplifiers installed with a new targeting system that tracks what a person is shooting at. This technology comes about via an RFID wristband that collects scores and on-ride photos. HPGO is a free wristband that also works with Whitecap Racer and can be linked to the Hersheypark's Fast Track line-skipping service.

The project was a long time in the planning process. "We probably started talking three years ago about the opportunity to develop this attraction. We wanted to create something really unique that expanded on the game play and created an opportunity for guests to ride over and over again and something that was a unique and different IP for the park that would differentiate it from anybody else in the world," explained **Louis Alfieri**, principal and chief creative officer for Raven Sun Creative.

Sally Corp. was a big player in the project as well. "We knew a dark ride was important to Hershey[park]. They needed something with indoor capacity. This was always, even as Reese's Xtreme Cup Challenge, a very popular ride for their park. It did need an update," said **Lauren Weaver**, director, marketing, communications and business development. "It was wonderful to get a call from Raven Sun and Hersheypark to say, you know we really want to do something different. We want to basically gut the original dark ride and bring a completely new experience to Hersheypark. We had a beautiful design from Raven Sun which allowed us to spread our wings and get excited about this new story line. It's really fun. We knew it was going to be extremely interactive with the amount of targets around [in] every single space."

The new attraction offers another added bonus, engaging parents with their children.

"It's really going to be great for the family. I heard some little kids walk off, talking to their dad about comparing their scores. That's what it is all about – getting the family to ride together, to compete together, to have a memory that they're going to share together for years to come. That's what this park does. It brings families back and I think this ride is really going to tip a hat to that," said Weaver.

Louis Alfieri, Raven Sun Creative, and Lauren Weaver, Sally Corp., pose with one of the new characters, Mint the Merciless inside the exit gift shop. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Dynamite, our newest installation of our BigDipper coaster at Freizeitpark Plohn, combines the thrill of three inversions with a short layout of only 500 meters. With an attractive price tag, this rollercoaster is the perferct fit for all small to mid-size amusement parks.

For more information find us at www.mack-rides.com

MACK RIDES GmbH & Co KG

Guests of Crayola Experience enjoy colors in new, creative ways

ORLANDO, Fla. – Crayola's brand of family entertainment attractions, **Crayola Experience**, continues to expand and grow, bringing three new attractions to its Florida location that just opened this year.

The Florida Crayola Experience is one of five of the brand's attractions in five different states created to help kids and adults alike to explore art and technology, express their creativity and experience color in a whole new way. It opened in 2015 in a 70,000-square-foot space inside the **Florida Mall** in Orlando.

The three new attractions are the Scribble Scrubbies, Silly Selfies and Crayola's new Create & Play app.

The popular Scibble Scrubbies (above) fit in the palm of kids' hands. Over 6,000 combinations are possible with Silly Selfies (right), which allows guests to interact with their photos. COURTESY CRAYOLA EXPERIENCE

"We are always looking for new ways for our guests to have fun expressing their creativity," said **Victoria Lozano,** senior vice president and general manager of Crayola attractions and retail. "Crayola Experience brings Crayola innovation to life, so these new attractions have been inspired by Crayola's newest and most popular products."

The Scribble Scrubbies are allowing guests to immerse themselves in a larger-than-life experience with Crayola's hottest, award-winning toy that fits in the palm of the hand. Every guest receives a free Scribble Scrubbie with ticketed admission. Guests may color and customize their toys, then scrub it clean in a giant fountain of water and take it home to do it again.

Snapping selfies at Crayola Experience isn't new, but this year Silly Selfies takes them to a new level. A robot unicorn, a rock star parrot, and a zany pirate bunny are just a few of the more than 6,000 possible combinations of digital masks guests may use before snapping their photos. Then guests can take their new larger-than-life selfies to a big screen and interact with them.

Also new this summer in the Orlando location, Crayola Experience has given guests the full experience of the subscription-based app, which is loaded with unique and kid-safe games to express their creativity and unleash their inner gamer.

The Florida Crayola Experience touts about 27 hands-on attractions. Other than the three new ones, guests also are enjoying being able to star in their very own coloring page, naming and wrapping their own Crayola Crayon, embarking on a 4-D coloring adventure and learning how crayons are made in a live manufacturing show.

A new Crayola Experience opened this year in Chandler, Ariz. Other locations include the birthplace of Crayola crayons, Easton, Pa.; in the **Mall of America,** Bloomington, Minn.; and in Plano, Texas.

The Crayola Experience attractions also are featuring live entertainment and special events unique at each location.

—Pam Sherborne

Tigeren, Denmark's largest Gyro Swing, debuts at Djurs Sommerland

NIMTOFTE, Denmark — **Djurs Sommerland**, a park that opened in 1981, has seen significant growth in the last decade. Among some signature roller coasters and family offerings, the park continues to add major new attractions. Since 2008, Djurs Sommerland has invested €65 million ($72 million) in 30 new attractions and improvements.

A newly themed area called Wild Asia was introduced in 2017. It is now anchored by Tigeren (Danish for Tiger), a massive Gyro Swing supplied by **Intamin**. In the past two years, a family safari bus ride and two roller coasters have been incorporated into the area. The park felt it was time to add something big.

Tigeren swings riders up to 147 feet into the air. Giant tiger faces at the ride's apex are just one part of the detailed theming of the ride and queue. COURTESY INTAMIN; DJURS SOMMERLAND

"We looked for a name that signaled greatness and strength," said Managing Director and CEO **Henrick Nielsen**. "The tiger theme was chosen to fit our new Wild Asia area. It definitely has a 'WOW factor' that guests are reacting to. This is our first real thrill flat ride."

With heights of 45 meters/147 feet and speeds of 100 km/62mph, Tigeren becomes the tallest and fastest ride in the park. The ride delivers a swing up to 120 degrees.

"We were really impressed by the Gyro Swing installation that Intamin made in **Liseberg**, but we have also had a long-term collaboration with Intamin, which, of course, had an impact," Nielsen told *Amusement Today*, when asked why the manufacturer was chosen. Tigeren was in investment of €5 million ($5.56 million).

Among its lineup of rides, the park has three Intamin coasters, including its largest, Piraten, a Mega-Lite coaster. The family suspended coaster, DrageKongen, was introduced in 2017 with the Wild Asia area.

As riders swing from the Tigeren's center pendulum, 4.5 Gs are felt, as well as moments of weightlessness. Because of its height, the ride offers uninterrupted views of the surrounding countryside. Riders' legs dangle freely as the 40-passenger gondola rotates throughout the ride. Hourly capacity is projected at 900 per hour.

According to Intamin, the main drive represents an innovative design, making for not only the most powerful on the market, but also almost noiseless.

"We have received a lot of positive comments on the ride from the moment we announced it, and now that it has opened, it really proves to be a spectacular ride. We have some amazing roller coasters, but [Tigeren] gives a whole different experience," said Nielsen.

For the ride's concept, Djurs Sommerland once again partnered with Netherlands-based **Leisure Expert Group**, a design company the park had worked with in years past on other attractions and themed areas. Tigeren is ornamented with tiger faces at the top of the ride as well as an engaging queue house highly detailed with thematic elements. Statues and monuments lead visitors to the entrance of Tigeren's Temple where flickering lights, textured textiles, carvings and artwork set the stage. Themed supports and ride platform continue the theme of Wild Asia.

"It is our plan to continue to develop this area over time," said Nielsen, "but we already now see much more activity in the area."

—Tim Baldwin

Cincinnati-area iFly location is company's first in Ohio

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Ohio's first **iFly** location debuted to the public in early May. The 5,175-square-foot indoor skydiving attraction opened at the **Liberty Center** complex just north of Cincinnati, Ohio, in Butler County.

The attraction simulates freefall conditions in a vertical wind tunnel.

iFly officials told Cincinnati news outlets that they chose Butler County's Liberty Twp. for Ohio's first iFLY because the growing area between Cincinnati and Dayton provided easy access for families in Greater Cincinnati and the surrounding cities.

"[iFly] will attract thousands of new visitors from across the region to experience not only indoor skydiving but everything else Butler County has to offer," according to **Mark Hecquet**, president and CEO of the **Butler County Visitors Bureau**.

•iflyworld.com/cincinnati

The Cincinnati iFly facility features a vertical wind tunnel that simulates free-fall conditions. COURTESY IFLY

Morgan's Wonderland qualifies for TripAdvisor Hall of Fame

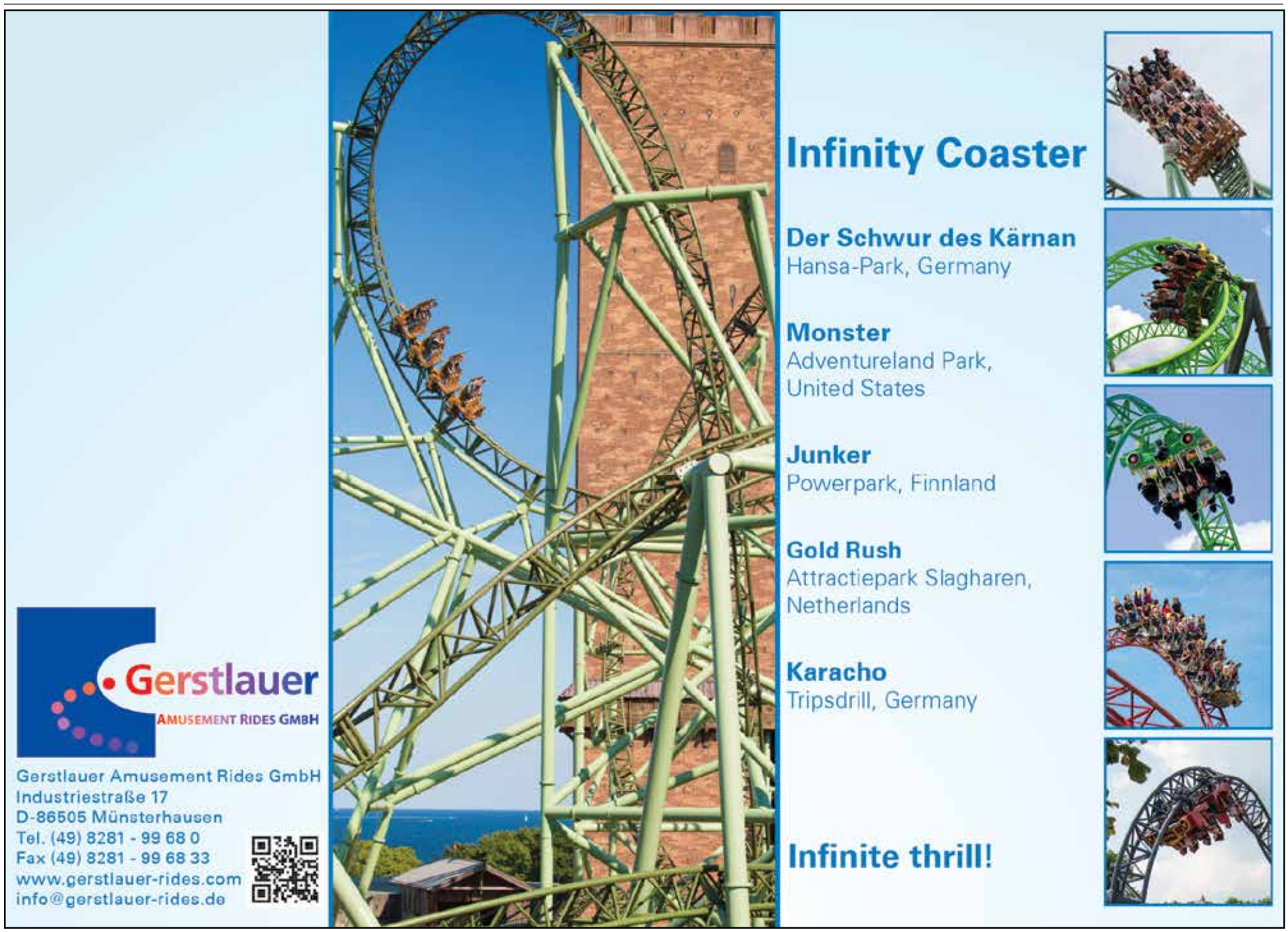
SAN ANTONIO, Texas — After having earned a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for the past five years, the ultra-accessible **Morgan's Wonderland** theme park has qualified for TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence Hall of Fame.

"We're delighted as well as humbled that our guests would take the time to respond to TripAdvisor and award us very high ratings,"said **Ron Morander**, Morgan's Wonderland chief operating officer. "This Hall of Fame honor motivates us to work even harder to provide the best guest hospitality possible."

TripAdvisor, the well-known travel website, uses guest feedback to award Certificates of Excellence to hospitality businesses which deliver consistently great service. Only about 10 percent of businesses merit the Certificate of Excellence.

The TripAdvisor recognition comes on the heels of the 2018 Barrier-Free America Award being bestowed on the park by the **Paralyzed Veterans of America** (PVA) organization of Washington, D. C. In addition, *TIME* named Morgan's Inspiration Island to the magazine's 2018 list of World's Greatest Places. And, **Service Dogs Inc.**, honored Morgan's Wonderland and Morgan's Inspiration Island with the inaugural Texas Accessibility Award.

•morganswonderland.com



Sunkid supplies interactive attractions to Karls Erlebnisdörfer

Sunkid-Heege's Nautic Jet (left) was added to the Erlebnisdorf's Elstal location. A double Sky Dive (center) is offered at the Zirkow location. Themed interactive towers (right) can be experienced at multiple locations. COURTESY SUNKID

RÖVERSHAGEN, Germany — With more than 250 attractions, cafés and hotels in seven locations, **Karls Erlebnisdörfer** are popular family excursion destinations in Germany. Continuing the chain's tradition of offering unique attractions, **Sunkid-Heege** family rides were opened at three Karls Erlebnisdörfer facilities.

The first Erlebnisdorf park was opened in Rövershagen back in 1993. At that location, a pirate's nest-themed tower from Sunkid-Heege is supplemented by a scored game. The fun, interactive approach to the attraction led to bringing more Sunkid-Heege products to other Erlebnisdorf sites as well.

"We have operated the pirate's nest in Rövershagen for a long time without any failures," stated **Nadja Schriever**, marketing manager of the Erlebnisdörfer parks. "The reliability of the ride convinced us.

"Our managing director, **Robert Dahl**, also tried out the Nautic Jet on an outing. He loved the freefall experience. Our guests can now enjoy it, too, in our second-largest Erlebnisdorf, Elstal. We set up a double facility there that we dubbed the Strawberry Drop."

The most recent Erlebnisdorf in Koserow on the island of Usedom added a Straw-beary tower which was customized with a strawberry theme.

"We have a great cooperation with Karls. The Karlsians are a very target-oriented and motivated team," said **Michael Kalsch** of Sunkid's sales department.

In addition, a double SkyDive was built in Zirkow on the island of Rügen as a pancake catapult.

Many of the Sunkid-Heege interactive family rides need no direct supervision and utilize a small footprint.

•sunkidworld.com

RMC

WE BUILD

208-772-8181 — WWW.ROCKYMTNCONSTRUCTION.COM

THE I-BOX(TM) TRACK IS COVERED BY US PATENTS 8590455 AND 9566527 AND BY FOREIGN PATENTS. TOPPER TRACK(US AND FOREIGN PATENTS PENDING.

Two new rides, animal exhibit lead 2019 park investments

SeaWorld San Antonio unveils Turtle Reef expansion, entrance updates

AT: *Tim Baldwin*
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — With the park's 32nd season well underway, there is much happening at **Sea World San Antonio.** With the opening of Ihu's Breakway Falls at the adjacent **Aquatica** water park this spring, Sea World followed with its Seven Seas festival showcasing international cuisine. Guest were also quick to notice enhancements and a freshness to not only the park's mega coaster, Steel Eel, featuring a new paint scheme, but also several details refreshing the front entrance. The park's iconic glass arches have received new updated lighting and refreshed trim. New paint in the entrance area has also added more color. A new Texas-shaped inlay has been installed into the walkway. Special material in the surface make some of the rocky ingredients glow in the dark. The park has also reworked its wayfinding signage to bring a uniformity to it. Management is pleased with the results.

A large glass wall (above) allows guests to peer into Turtle Reef, a 126,000-gallon environment. The front entrance (right) has received a refresh with a new Texas inlay, brighter colors and new paint on the iconic glass arches.
AT/TIM BALDWIN

The major expansion, however, is Turtle Reef. Opened in May, the new exhibit features the addition of two rides and a brand-new animal habitat. A large glass wall draws families to take a closer look at the 126,000-gallon coral reef-themed environment.

"The message conveys our love for the oceans. Turtles are survivors; they've been around a long time," said **Carl Lum**, park president. "With the current state of the oceans, a lot of the turtle species are threatened. What I really like about this exhibit is our partnership with the University of Texas Marine Science Center, who work on the Texas coast to protect turtles and rescue turtles. Not only are we introducing a new exhibit and new rides, but we are also doing things to protect turtles in the wild."

The exhibit is inhabited by rescued and non-releasable sea turtles, including endangered green sea turtles. A 250-pound loggerhead sea turtle, lovingly called Big Mama, causes many an onlooker, particularly children, to point and wave. The turtle was rescued offshore in the Gulf of Mexico after sustaining significant injuries to her front and back flippers.

SeaWorld has some of the most advanced water purification infrastructures in the world built into the foundation of its parks and uses these systems to reclaim and recycle wastewater for reuse. In *Turtle Reef*, seawater is filtered through a fabricated salt marsh grass wetland, similar to how water is filtered in the environment, and returned to the habitat. This unique filtration method helps reduce water and energy consumption.

"This filtration system is the first of its kind," Lum proudly told *Amusement Today*. "It's never been done before on a scale of this size. It's actually the way it works in nature and costs less to build and design than a traditional system. It costs less to operate and is better for the water chemistry. We brought in a lot of experts from within the company as well as people from outside the company and told them we'd like to try this with a natural filtration system. They come up with a solution."

The use of a constructed saltwater marsh to filter the exhibit is a unique example of a biodynamic habitat, using natural elements and processes in an organic way. The team ultimately hopes that the marshland will attract additional wildlife, helping to complete the ecology circle.

Incorporated into the themed area are two new rides.

Riptide Rescue is a **Huss** Airboat ride. Four boats at the end of three cantilevered arms spin as the entire ride rotates. As the attraction goes through its pattern, the motion causes the vehicles to swing from side to side. The arms lower at the end of the ride cycle for all 24 passengers to disembark at the same time.

The second addition is a **Zamperla** Midi Discovery called Sea Swinger. Seating 16 passengers, the pendulum swings riders to a height of 51 feet in operation, well beyond the horizontal plane. The gondola rotates so that passengers on some swings are facing skyward, while on others are staring straight down at the ground.

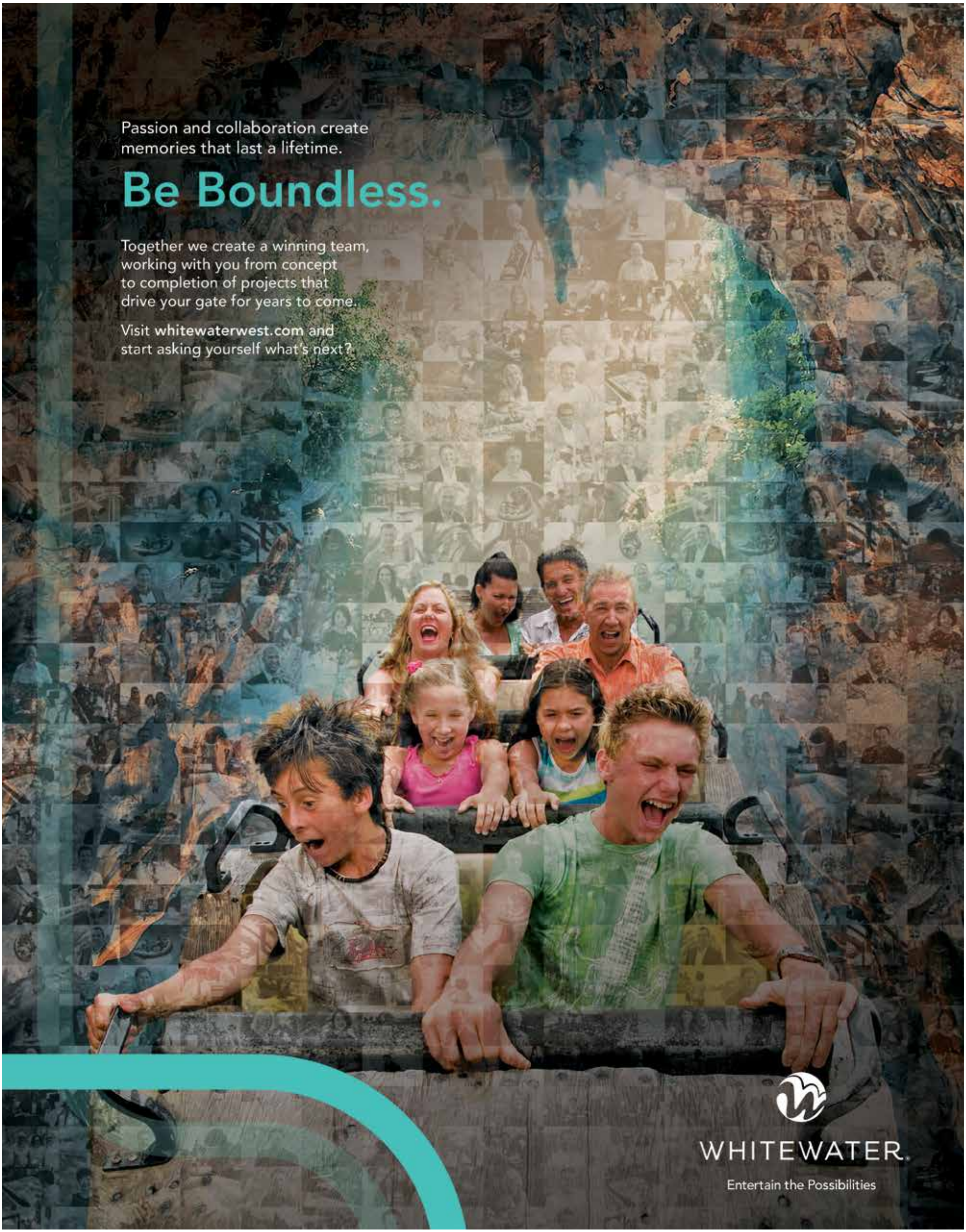
"The Sea Swinger is no sissy ride," smiled Lum. "It's a lot of fun."

The selection helps fill a gap in the ride lineup. Previously, the mix offered children's rides that immediately jumped to higher thrill. The two new rides provide offerings to that mid-range that families often look for. The flat rides make for a more rounded package.

Adjacent to the Turtle Reef exhibit is a new retail outlet. "We give five percent of our turtle merchandise proceeds to the Texas Marine Science Center as a way to help support them. They are a great organization," said Lum.

Aside from use during the park's Halloween event, the location of Turtle Reef was a previous wooded setting. "It was kind of a dead area," said Lum. "We have a good balance between our rides and animals and shows and events — and that's what families like. When you have a good mix of experiences, it's what brings people out."

Zamperla supplied the Sea Swinger (left), a pendulum that swings 120 degrees in each direction. Riptide Rescue (above) is a Huss Airboat that seats 24 passengers.
AT/TIM BALDWIN; JEFFREY SEIFERT


Passion and collaboration create
memories that last a lifetime.
Be Boundless.
Together we create a winning team,
working with you from concept
to completion of projects that
drive your gate for years to come.
Visit whitewaterwest.com and
start asking yourself what's next?
WHITEWATER.
Entertain the Possibilities

Hasbro has expanded its licensing agreement with **Kingsmen Creatives** to bring **NERF Family Entertainment Center** attractions to the U.S. market.

Initially launched in Singapore earlier this year, NERF Family Entertainment Centers are indoor facilities that feature multiple NERF activity zones and merchandising stores as well as food and beverage areas. Kingsmen Creative now plans to launch the first U.S. entertainment centers in late-2020.

"NERF is a well-established brand that commands a global following and has a strong presence in the U.S.," stated **Andrew Cheng**, Kingsmen Creatives's group chief executive officer. "The opening of NERF FEC's in the U.S. will redefine how fans can experience the brand as they find themselves immersed in exclusive NERF worlds. We look forward to breaking new ground as we engage audiences in one-of-a-kind experiences."

•

In the Game, a national franchise of party and events venues, is scheduled to open a 16,000-square-foot family entertainment center and restaurant at Liberty Center in Liberty Township, Ohio, by spring of 2020. Operated by Itasca, Ill.-based **Family Entertainment Group, LLC** (FEG), the center will be the franchise's first location in Ohio. FEG currently operates In the Game locations in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Massachusettes. and Texas.

The Liberty Township center will feature games and attractions, which will include six-lane boutique bowling, virtual reality and an axe-throwing arena. Its chef-inspired menu will offer burgers, chicken wings, salads, hand-tossed pizza and a "creative" adult drink menu.

In the Game joins **iFLY**, an indoor skydiving attraction that opened in May, as well as other new tenants Molly's Cupcakes and Le Macaron.

"These four tenants all represent the new Liberty Center initiative to bring never-before-seen brands and experiences to the Cincinnati/Dayton area," said **John Taylor**, general manager of Liberty Center.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTRAL

AT: John W.C. Robinson
jrobinson@amusementtoday.com

•

JLL, a firm that specializes in real estate and investment management, announced it will align with **GameWorks, Inc.**, to expand its full entertainment and dining experience concept nationwide. Currently, GameWorks operates seven entertainment centers in seven states. Averaging 20,000-30,000-square-feet, each facility boasts an esports lounge, large arcade gaming floor, and The Works Kitchen restaurant.

GameWorks is planning to bring its integrated entertainment concept and esports lounges to an increasing number of U.S. cities. The partnership with JLL hopes to identify strategic locations ripe for its demographic and concept. JLL's **Scott Wetzel** and **Joe Bevan** are overseeing site selection and transaction services for GameWorks.

"Over the past several months, we have been bolstering our offering across all our venues, particularly in the esports realm," stated **Philip N. Kaplan**, Gameworks chairman and CEO. "Our goal with our expansion plans is to open large locations in key cities, each with full-service, high-tech, high-touch lounges and further strengthen our leadership position in an explosive market that continues to boom. GameWorks is right there with an esports experience that brings players and spectators the experience they demand."

•

Smitty's Cinema of southern Maine will be opening a new family entertainment center in the fall of 2019. The center will be located next to the cinema.

Smitty's Cinema offers guests the experience of enjoying dinner and drinks in the theater while guests enjoy a movie. With more than 20 years experience in providing family entertainment, Smitty's Owner and President **Milton Smith** sees the FEC expansion as a natural step forward.

The center will feature 10 lanes of bowling, more than 50 arcade games, air hockey and a 100-seat bar and lounge area with multiple high-definition televisions.

"Here at Smitty's, the goal has always been to deliver a fun, unique, and high-quality experience to our guests," offered Smith. "We are excited to bring a new experience to the people in the Sanford area."

•

Yakima, Wash., is one step closer to getting its first large-scale indoor amusement park. **Yakima Adventure Quest** is looking for investors to help fill a void in the city's entertainment options.

The proposed 30,000-square-foot facility will include a ninja course, bumper cars, carousel, high rope course, multiplayer virtual reality, climbing walls, party facilities, a kids' fun zone and a **Walltopia** Rollglider.

The indoor amusement park team made presentations to prospective investors in June, providing information about their business plan and the projected return on investment.

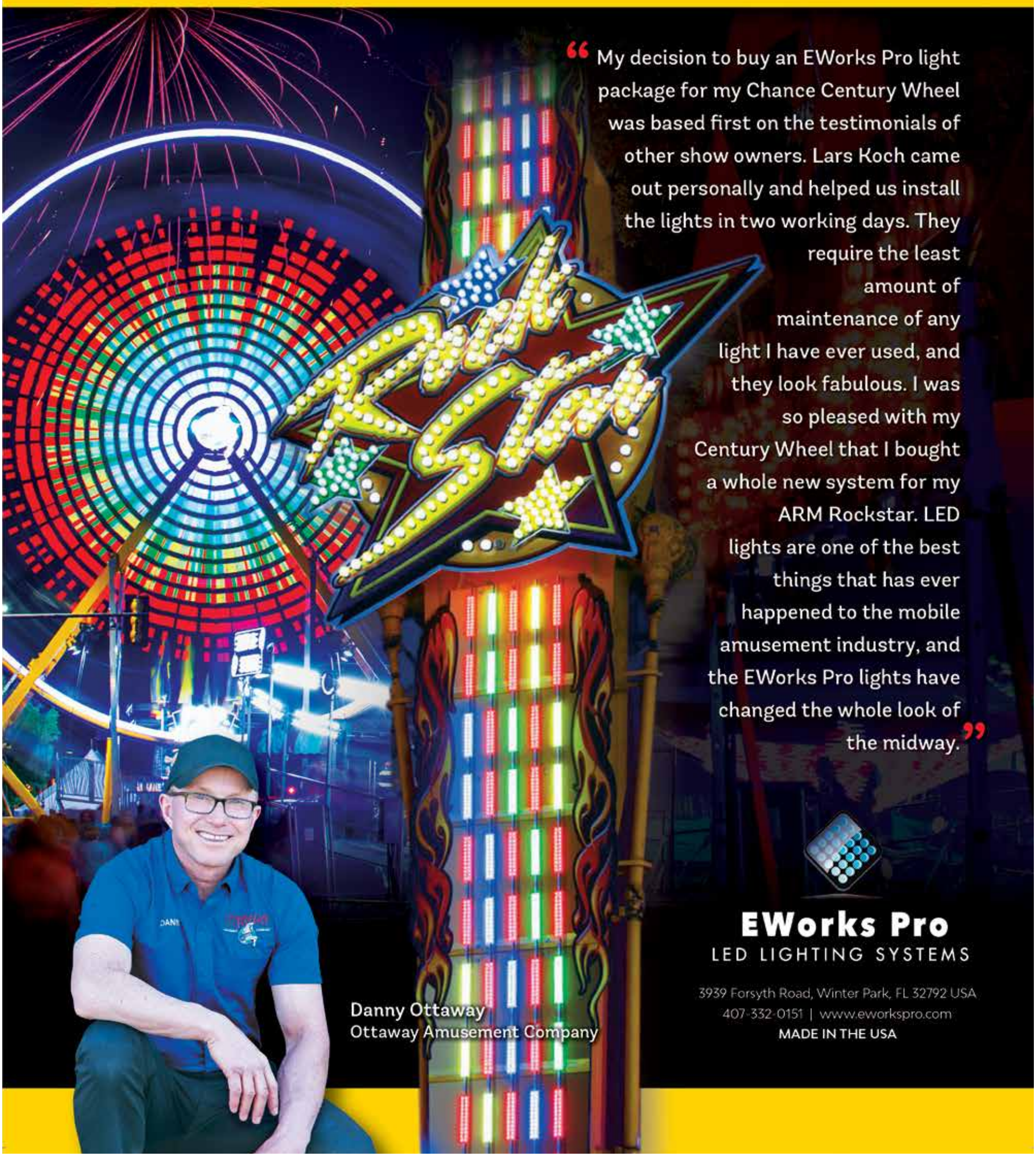
•

Surge Entertainment by **Drew Brees** is opening its newest **Surge Entertainment Center** in October 2019 in Lafayette, La. The 42,000-square-foot indoor sports and family entertainment center will be located at 2723 W. Pinhook Road in Lafayette.

"We are very excited to be opening Surge Entertainment here in Lafayette. Designing this project has been fun," stated Brees.

"We take great pride in providing a bright, safe, clean and fun environment that focuses on the entire family. We are so happy to be able to deliver this state-of-the-art center to the area," added founder and co-owner **Darren Balsamo**. "We give back to the communities that have been so good to us."

EWORKS PRO LIGHTS CHANGE THE WHOLE LOOK OF THE MIDWAY



"My decision to buy an EWorks Pro light package for my Chance Century Wheel was based first on the testimonials of other show owners. Lars Koch came out personally and helped us install the lights in two working days. They require the least amount of maintenance of any light I have ever used, and they look fabulous. I was so pleased with my Century Wheel that I bought a whole new system for my ARM Rockstar. LED lights are one of the best things that has ever happened to the mobile amusement industry, and the EWorks Pro lights have changed the whole look of the midway."

Danny Ottaway
Ottaway Amusement Company

EWorks Pro
LED LIGHTING SYSTEMS

3939 Forsyth Road, Winter Park, FL 32792 USA
407-332-0151 | www.eworkspro.com
MADE IN THE USA

Ray Cammack Shows provides midway for 2019 Pima County Fair

AT: *B. Derek Shaw*
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

TUCSON, Ariz. – For 11 days in mid-April, organizers of the **Pima County Fair** were asking potential visitors to "Go Big or GO BIGGER!" However, that marketing enticement was not enough to yield attendance increases. In fact it was down nine percent this season. **Launa Rabago**, marketing and entertainment manager explained, "Tucson's economy has really turned around since the recession. More expendable income gave families many more options on how to spend. Over the past several years, families did not vacation over spring break; rather they would choose the Pima County Fair as their "staycation." This year, our community saw a lot of vacationing families leave Tucson during the spring break, which also happened to land during our fair."

Ray Cammack Shows (RCS, Inc.) again provided 61 rides out of the 70-plus in its ride arsenal. The carnival operator has had the contract for 39 years and uses no independents at this location. New rides at the fair included Titan (**Fabbri Group** Booster,) Ice Jet (**Bertazzon** matterhorn-type ride) and the Tea Cups (**Kolmax Plus**). The top five most popular rides included: Wild River (**Reverchon**), Titan, G-force (**KMG**), Big Wheel (**Lamberink**) and Ice Jet.

The Pima County Fair had 61 rides this year, brought in by RCS, Inc. which has provided the midway for the past 39 years. COURTESY PIMA COUNTY FAIR

The ride midway is divided into two sections: the 25-ride kiddie land area and the main midway. The carnival opened at 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday and 11:00 a.m. Saturday – Sunday. The "FunPass" swipe card system was used on the ride midway for the first time this year. It is similar to a debit card or a pre-paid phone card.

"We love coming to Pima County Fair and the relationship we have with **Jon Baker** (CEO) and his staff and the Pima County Fair board, said **Chris Lopez**, Vice President, RCS Inc. "They continue to grow and always have new and beautiful projects going to enlarge and improve the fairgrounds. We often use them as an example for their great board and staff and growth of [their] property."

Lopez also commented about the dip in attendance. "Although we were slightly down from 2018, it was a successful and SAFE fair. Opening weekend being [the] Easter holiday may have been one factor as attendance was down more on that Sunday and impacted that Friday (Good Friday) with many out of town for the holiday weekend. Weather across the entire country has been weird, especially Arizona with its two ski resorts being open late into April and May for [the] first time ever."

On Easter Sunday the fair offered free admission until noon to attendees who brought three cans of unopened food. The fair collected 23,658 pounds of food, which equals 80,000 meals for the Tucson community. The last weekend of the fair featured a livestock auction. That weekend also included performances by the **Grand Canyon Pro Rodeo Association Rodeo**.

The Pima County Fairgrounds, a 640-acre facility serving all of southeast Arizona, is home to the annual fair, first held October 25–28, 1911 (and held sporadically until after World War II). The site also hosts numerous trade shows, concerts and community events.

The 2020 Pima County Fair runs April 16–26.

•pimacountyfair.com

Nighttime is spectacular at the 11-day fair, first held on the 640-acre site in 1911. New this year on the ride midway was a "FunPass" swipe card system. COURTESY PIMA COUNTY FAIR

ITAL
International
LLC
Major, Family and Spectacular Rides
Swing Buggy
Bertazzon: Park Model & One-Trailer Rides
Check out the hundreds of new and used rides at www.italintl.com
Technical Park: Park Model & One-Trailer Rides
Ital International LLC | Phone: 615-383-3986 | Fax: 615-383-9244 | E-Mail: sales@italintl.com

Sky Hawk

COMING SOON TO A NIGHT SKY NEAR YOU

1506 Fernwood Road · Wintersville, OH 43953 · 740.264.6599

A.R.M.

California's Silver Dollar Fair sees near record levels of guests

AT: *B. Derek Shaw*
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

CHICO, Calif. – Even though rain came in the overnight hours, it did not detract from the attendance experienced at the five-day **Silver Dollar Fair** held over the Memorial Day weekend. "We had great weather while we were open, but we experienced heavy rains overnight which did not seem to deter anyone from coming to the fair," said **Jesse Bogue**, unit manager of **Butler Amusements**. "We had to bring in truckloads of sand and hay to get the midways out from under inches of water."

Organizers were expecting nearly 70,000 visitors this year. They ended up with just over 67,000, a sizeable increase from the 55,000 people who attended in 2018. The fair theme was "Into the Wild", which featured zoo-quality displays, including **Brad's World of Reptiles**, **Wild Science** and the **Aussie Kingdom** show with kangaroos, turtles, birds and wallabies.

The Fairfield, Calif. based company provided a total of 33 rides with 12 of them being kiddie ones. Making their appearance for the first time at Silver Dollar Fair were: Cake Walk Fun House (**Owens Trailer**), Scooters (Bumper Cars) (**Majestic Manufacturing**), Crazy Train (**Larson International**), Happy Swings (**Zamperla**), Footloose (**Fabbri Group**) and Shake Up (**Tivoli Manufacturing**). The top three grossing rides were the Giant Wheel (**Chance Rides**), Zillerator (**Pinfari**) and Wacky Worm (**Fajume**).

One of the biggest changes to the fair this year was **Nick DiGrazia**, the new fair CEO. He has lived the fair for decades. His father, Tom, managed the 63-acre fairgrounds and the fair for nearly 30 years before his retirement. After another manager came and went, DiGrazia applied.

One of the biggest challenges was the massive flooding in the wee hours of the morning. "Nick provided great support getting our midways ready after overnight rains. They brought in truckloads of hay and sand which made the ground bearable for the customers," said Bogue.

DiGrazia also commented on the rain: "We got huge rain at night. The conditions were not great, but the carnival did great. Butler has always been great. They've been there to help us." This included use of generators and other equipment when needed. Butler has played that spot for more than 40 years. Another challenge created by the massive rain was the lack of parking on the flooded grounds. "I put in a train to pick up people downtown and transported them to the fair," said DiGrazzi.

There were also other changes this year with a bigger concert venue set up in the middle of the fair. The top musical headliner was **Billy Ray Cyrus**, thanks to an increased entertainment budget for 2019. "Billy Ray had the number one song in the country at the time of the fair. That helped out I think," said DiGrazia. Racing events were not part of the fair this year because there are 30 other days when that is offered on the grounds.

The Silver Dollar Fair is part of the **Third District Agricultural Association**, an organization committed to being a leader in professional public event production in Northern California. The **California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA)** is the state agency responsible for the oversight of the network of fairs.

The 2020 fair is slated for May 21-25.

• **silverdollarfair.org**

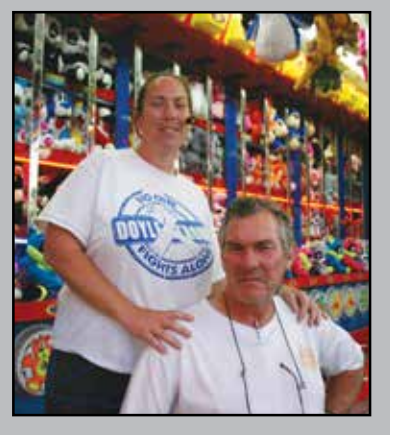
Butler Amusements brought in 33 rides (12 of them kiddie) at the five-day spot. The Chance Rides Giant Wheel (right) was the top-grossing ride at the fair, which saw 67,000 attendees, up from 55,000 last year. COURTESY BUTLER AMUSEMENTS

While it rained overnight during the run, Butler was able to get the carnival operations in during the earlier evening hours. At right is what the midway looked like the next day. The fair brought in truckloads of hay and sand. COURTESY BUTLER AMUSEMENTS

ON THE MIDWAY: Tons of Fun Shows

Large banners placed all over town could be seen for weeks in advance of this annual fundraiser carnival.
AT/B. DEREK SHAW

The midway was nearly ready for opening night in Morgantown, Pa., with the exception of the new 82-foot-tall Keystone Wheel, manufactured by Bojux s.r.o. Heavy rains on set-up day delayed that attraction's opening.
AT/B. DEREK SHAW



Posing inside a midway water game is Francine Imes Pfeffer and her father Dave Pfeffer. Dave is co-owner of the show with son, Ben. Francine teaches at a day care facility and helps out in the evenings, when needed.
AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Farah Qatar chain of FECs add Intercard

QATAR — **Intercard** has installed its latest systems at **Farah**'s four FECs in Qatar. The installations were completed between Nov. 2018 and April 2019.

Farah Parks Executive Manager **Fouad Chehade** has extensive experience with Intercard and chose its technology for its stability, performance and flexibility.

"The installation has been very smooth; the support from the local dealer **Chimera Solutions Qatar** and the Intercard team has been tremendous," said Chehade. "[Intercard] offered me the most cost-effective solution and my revenue has increased since I started implementing their solution."

Intercard's cloud technology will also support Chehade's aggressive expansion plan for Farah.

"Their customized one-of-a-kind debit card systems with state of the art software played a major role in my decision," Chehade added.

"Intercard has been leading the way with cashless technology in the Middle East since **Encounter Zone**, the first FEC in the region, opened in Wafi Mall in Dubai more than 20 years ago," stated **Fouad Kyriakos**, general manager of Chimera Solutions. "Since then, Intercard's continued innovations and renowned customer service have made its technology the most-used in the market."

•intercard.com

MIDWAY MARKET PLACE

Whatever your Industry...
INDIANA TICKET COMPANY
Design / Quality / Security
Manufacturers of Quality Tickets For over 70 years
1-800-428-8640
- Redemption Tickets
- Admission Tickets
- Direct Thermal Tickets
- Reserved Seating
- Wristbands
- Credentials

www.muncienovelty.com
info@muncienovelty.com
A MUNCIE NOVELTY INC. COMPANY
We've got your Ticket.

Gull Wing Industries
WE'VE GOT THE POWER!!
Gull Wing provides carnivals, fairs, and festivals with the highest caliber portable electrical solutions.
Gull Wing
Toll Free: 800-838-1482
www.gull-wing.com

AUDIO INNOVATORS INC
YOUR ONE SOURCE FOR ALL DIGITAL MESSAGE REPEATERS & COMMUNICATING EQUIPMENT NEEDS.
WATER PARK SAFETY - GO-KART PIT SAFETY - KIDDY RIDES
FRONT GATE - COASTERS - GROUP GAMES
SAFETY MESSAGES SYSTEMS OF ALL KINDS.
ALL ARE WITCH TURN-KEY.
WE SERVE AMUSEMENT PARKS OF ALL KINDS.
AIRPORTS , WATER PARKS, TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES.
VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR MORE DETAILS AND VIDEO DEMOS
WWW.AUDIOINNOVATORS.COM
OFFICE 800.222.9929 - FAX 813.200.4600 - SALES@AUDIOINNOVATORS.COM

Keep our amusement park industry strong!
Buy products and services from these suppliers.

MIDWAYSCENE

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

It has been called by carnival historians the "King of the Midway." A traveling amusement ride so unique, dazzling and spectacular that it defined the **Erie County Fair** (Hamburg, N.Y.) midway for generations of western New Yorkers. The **James E. Strates Shows** is bringing back the 80-foot-high double Ferris wheel called the Sky Wheel to the August 7-18 fair. This limited, one-time engagement is part of the celebration commemorating the 95th year of the Strates Shows at the Erie County Fair.

"The double Ferris wheel is one of the most requested bygone attractions that fairgoers continually ask us to bring back," said **Marty Biniasz**, Erie County fair marketing manager. "Not only is this rare ride an icon of the Strates Shows midway, it also has a deep Buffalo-Niagara connection as the Sky Wheel ride was once manufactured by the **Allan Herschell Co.**"

The Sky Wheel debuted on the Erie County Fair's midway in 1963 and was a featured attraction until 1994. The fully restored version of the ride is one of only five operating Sky Wheel rides remaining in North America.

•

Reithoffer Shows, Inc. is continually building its western route. It started when the show picked up the **New Mexico State Fair** in 2014, making the turn-around tight for heading eastbound to **Bloomsburg**, Pa **Fair**, its next spot. The company serviced Bloomsburg for more than 50 years up to 2017, supplementing its ride midway with independents.

In May and June, the blue unit played still dates in El Paso and Dallas, Texas along with Columbus, Ohio — all done to test the waters in those markets. In mid-August, the second westward swing of the blue unit starts with the **New Jersey State Fair**, Augusta, followed by the **Wilson County Fair**, Lebanon, Tenn., reaching its western-most point, the New Mexico State Fair, Albuquerque. Returning east, the show plays the **South Plains Panhandle Fair**, Lubbock, Texas, **Georgia National Fair**, Perry, **Pensacola**, Fla. **Interstate Fair** and ends in Dothan, Alabama for the **National Peanut Festival** in early November.

•

The **Tennessee State Fair** is returning to the **Nashville Fairgrounds**. The 10-day event opens Friday, Sept. 6-15. This decision came after the **Tennessee State Fair Association** struggled to reach an agreement with various entities regarding the facilities being provided this year. TSFA had concerns regarding space and the facilities at Nashville Fairgrounds due to ongoing construction of a new major league soccer stadium. Accommodations were made to make this a possibility. "I am grateful to **Mayor Briley**, members of his administration, and members of the **Metro Fair Board** for the efforts they made in order to ensure that the State Fair will be held once again at this site. There is certainly a great deal of extraordinary history with the State Fair being held at this location that dates back more than 100 years," said **John Rose**, sixth district U.S. representative and chair of the volunteer TSFA board.

NAME is providing the midway rides.

•

Erin Gurtel, who previously served as marketing and sales manager for the **Spokane**, Wash. **County Fair and Expo Center** is the new director. Gurtel replaces **Rich Hartzell** who recently retired after eight years in the position.

Gurtel, with a bachelor's degree in communications from **Washington State University**, has 14 years of experience working for the **Downtown Spokane Partnership** and large festivals in the Seattle area, including **Bumbershoot**. "I am extremely confident that Erin will be a shining example of the high level of customer service we're committed to developing in our culture," county CEO **Gerry Gemmill** said in a statement.

The **Spokane County Interstate Fair** runs Sept. 6–15. **Butler Amusements** has the midway contract.

•

The **Illinois State Fair** (Springfield) has lowered some of its ticket prices for the 11-day fair, August 8-18. Daily admission prices have been lowered to $5 for adults during the run. Senior prices remain at $3 and children 12 years of age and younger are free. This is being done to make the fair a more affordable, family-friendly experience.

"With the lowering of our adult admission price, the Illinois State Fair continues to be the most affordable state fair in the Midwest," said **Kevin Gordon**, ISF manager. "We offer a variety of fun, family events such as livestock shows, agricultural exhibits, top music entertainment in our grandstand, 13 stages with free entertainment and carnival rides for the young or old at heart — just to mention a few."

"The #1 Leading Slide Manufacturer in America"
"World's Largest 5 Lane, One Trailer Slide - 108 Ft."
- Financing and Leasing Available
- Trades Considered
- Order Slide Bags or "New Rain" Bags
- 6 New Slides In Stock
- Have 20 Used Rides
- 90 Ft. Fiberglass Slide
- 65 Ft. Fiberglass Slide

FREDERIKSEN
INDUSTRIES, INC.
5212 St. Paul St.
Tampa, Florida 33619
(813) 628-4545
FAX (813) 621-3679
www.funslide.com

Serving Montgomery Inn Barbecue is as easy as:

1 **RECEIVE** the barbecue.

2 **HEAT** the barbecue.

3 **SERVE** the barbecue.

Heck, we even fold the wet naps for you.

WE'RE MONTGOMERY INN, AMERICA'S #1 RIBS RESTAURANT*.

We've been providing great meals, featuring our world-famous Montgomery Inn Barbecue Sauce, for theme parks and other attractions for years. We know how the aroma of smoked barbecue pulls in the customers. We know how important it is please your guests with delicious, nutritious meals. We know how our pulled pork barbecue and pulled smoked chicken barbecue sandwiches melt in your mouth and we know how incredibly easy these meals are to prepare.

Make your guests happy. Make your food servers happy. Make the easy choice of Montgomery Inn.

WORLD FAMOUS
MONTGOMERY INN
The Ribs King

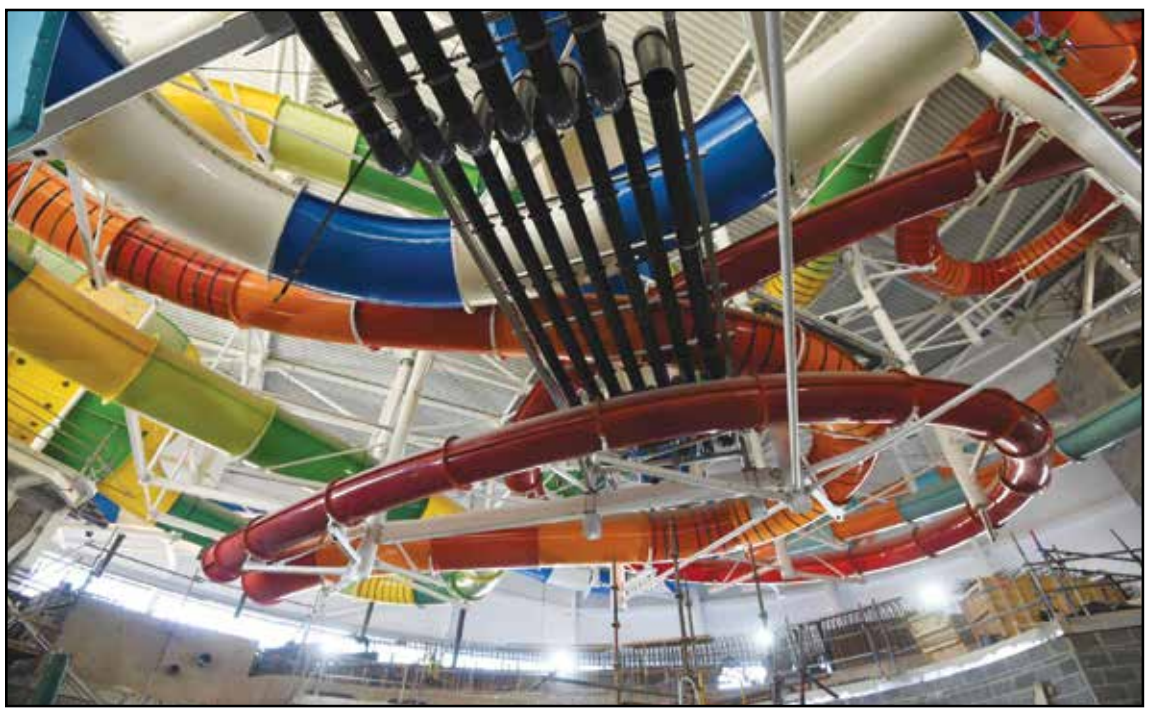
FOR MORE INFO, CALL EVAN ANDREWS AT 513-791-1942 OR E-MAIL HIM AT EVANANDREWS@MONTGOMERYINN.COM.

WATER PARKS & RECREATION

▸ Water Country USA launches new water coaster — page 41

Indoor Water Park brings new life to Coventry City Centre

AT: *Jeffrey Seifert*
jseifert@amusementtoday.com



Most of the slides are suspended from overhead, keeping the lower level support-free and open for the wave pool, splashdown pools and lazy river. COURTESY THE WAVE

COVENTRY, England — The **Wave Water Park & Leisure Centre** that has been under construction at **Coventry City Centre** will open in phases over the summer. The $47 (£36.7) million facility is located on the former site of the Spire House in a new state-of-the-art facility with the hopes of drawing people to Coventry and revitalizing the city center. Alongside The Wave indoor water park, with its thrill rides and slides, will be more traditional facilities: A day spa; four-lane, 25-meter swimming pool exclusively for lane swimming; gym with 120 fitness stations; squash courts; aromatic room; herbal steam room; sauna and a dance studio.

Located next to the Christchurch spire, one of Coventry's historic landmarks, the building was designed to make the most of the limited space allotted to the facility. The old **Coventry Christchurch House** and **Spire House** were demolished to create space for the new facility. **FaulknerBrowns Architects** designed the complex with **Hadron Consulting** serving as the project manager. **Engenuiti** provided structural and civil engineering services. **Water Technology Inc**. designed the water park. **CV Life** (formerly Coventry Sports Foundation) which operates multiple fitness facilities in and around the city, has been contracted to manage the water park and the leisure center.

The upper, circular section of the building houses the water park on two levels, with the slide platforms reaching the highest levels. Due to the limited space, a number of the slides are supported from overhead, appearing to hang from the ceiling, with the lower space housing a wave pool, the slide splashdown pools, lazy river and children's splash zone. A rectangular section at ground level houses the main swimming pool, gym, changing rooms and sports courts. The ground-level facilities were expected to open mid-June with the first phase. The water park is planning to open a month or two later. The club has been equipped with **Technogym** equipment and will provide one of the most digitally advanced fitness experiences in the region. Innovative solutions include a new digital wristband that will replace traditional membership cards. The wristband will allow customers to check in, secure a locker and record all of their exercise data on their smartphones to help them track their progress.

Chris Panter, lifestyles health and fitness manager for CV Life highlighted the significance of bringing Technogym on board: "Working with Technogym is a reminder that The Wave isn't just going to be a thrilling water park, it will be at the cutting edge of fitness and wellbeing, and a leisure center of the future that other towns and cities can take inspiration from.

"Whether our customers visit The Wave or any of our city-wide facilities, we want them to experience the most modern fitness technology in the world, which connects with other personal fitness programs and applications, whilst also enjoying the seamless comfort of quick and convenient access all the way from reception to changing rooms and lockers."

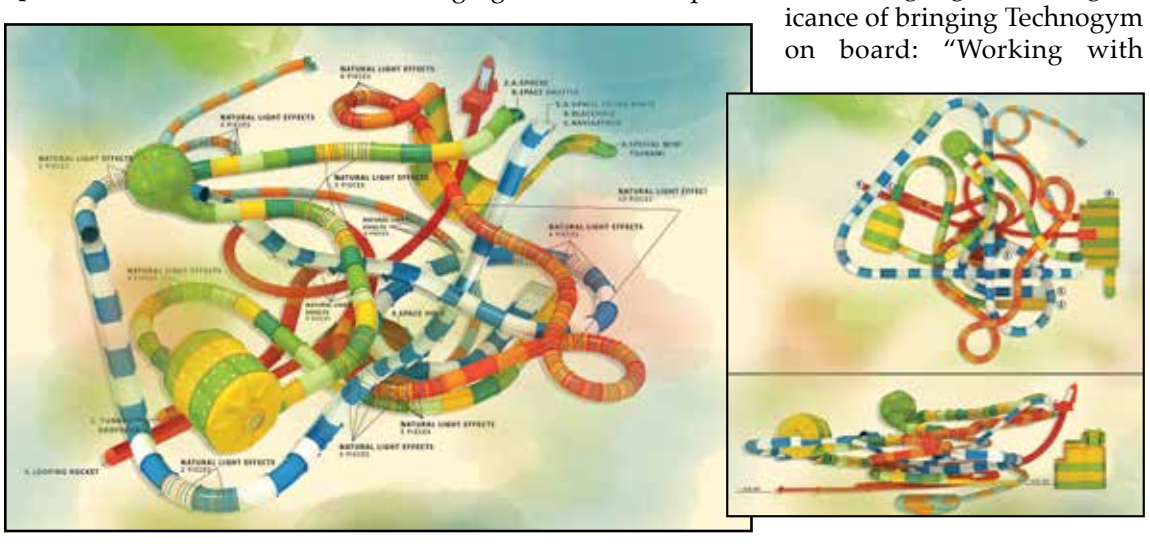
The Wave has been described as a "game changer" by **Michael Hall**, partner at FaulknerBrowns, who said the venue signals a change in the funding of aquatics facilities which had been "driven by lane swimming" over the past 20 years. Hall added, "The decision by Coventry Council to procure a water park right in the heart of its city center is a bold one and we are delighted to be able to support this forward-thinking vision."

Polin Waterparks of Turkey supplied six thrill slides including a combination of tube and body slides. The premier ride is likely to be The Rapids. Billed as a water coaster, it is a Polin Flying Boats slide combined with a Black Hole, Navigatour and Black Hole runout. The result is an exciting slide with three uphill sections utilizing blasts of water, enclosed dark sections and enclosed sections with colorful light bands. Crestar is a Sphere+Space Shuttle combination that will use lighting effects and contain other surprises. The cascade is a fully enclosed Tunnel Body Slide that also includes large sections of colored bands through which light will pass into the tube. Cyclone is a Space Hole slide that has guests swirling into a large bowl before dropping through the middle. The Torrent body slide includes a drop capsule which leads into looping body slide. The final slide, Riptide, is a Micro-Tsunami that has riders on rafts dropping into a U-shaped slide, oscillating back and forth until the raft loses momentum then slides into an exit pool.

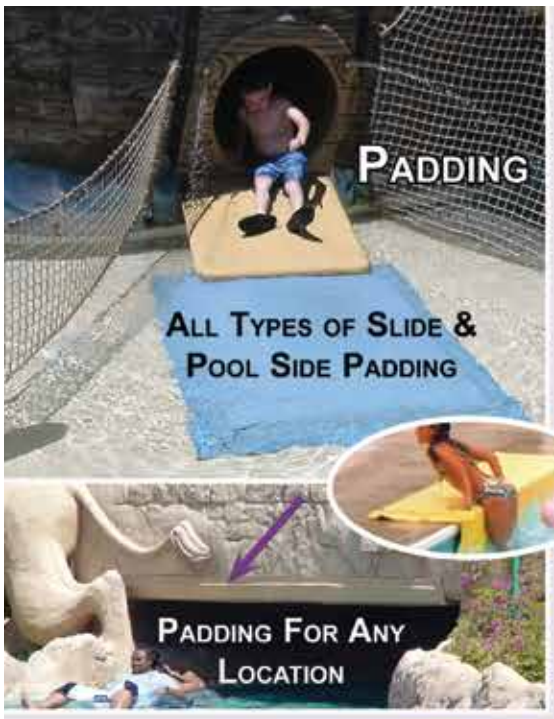
"Coventry's water park, The Wave, is unique because no other city has this kind of facility in the heart of a city center, so it seems only right that we have a unique name for it too," said **Councillor Kamran Caan**, cabinet member for public health and sport. "It will be the perfect way to get active whilst having fun, and we've ensured there will be something for everyone. The water park includes real thrill rides for the most adventurous, a splash pad area with jets, tipping buckets and smaller accessible slides for toddlers, easy access areas for people with mobility issues and a wave pool and lazy river," Caan added.

The leisure center is currently promoting the sale of memberships and is waiving the joining fee for a limited time. The price of single day tickets will be determined once the opening date for the water park is announced.

•polin.com.tr



These illustrations show the complexity of the slide layout, which provides as many slides as possible in a limited amount of space. COURTESY POLIN WATERPARKS



Floatation Collars

☎ +1(513) 829-5533
Fax +1(513) 892-7466
zebec@zebec.com
www.zebec.com

Diamond Raft

Heavy-Duty Single, Double, Tear-Drop, 3 and 4 Person Clover Tubes made in USA with extra heavy material and overlapped, heat-welded seams

Heavy Duty Tubes

HT Heavy Triple Tube

Rapid River Raft

Lily Pad Walk

Snow Tubes & Rafts

Complete Lily Pad Walk Setup
- FOAM Lily Floats
- Overhead Netting
- Entry Pool Side Padding

Final Pipeline Express comes down in Ontario

AT: *Pam Sherborne*
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. — **Wild Water & Wheels** looks to be undergoing some significant changes over the next couple of years. The park's Pipeline Express roller coaster, one of its signature attractions since it was installed 28 years ago, is coming down. In its place, well, right now, no one knows, but there will be a new attraction for the 2020 season.

The Pipeline Express is a single-car vehicle and has been described as the last remaining **Bailey Rides** auto sled coaster in the world. The 50-foot tower that serves as the queueing line and ride station will remain intact.

"We're going to take out the track for the coaster, but the tower stays," said **Bryan Perkins,** park president and CEO. "That will be the basis of our new attraction next May or June."

Wild Water & Wheels' Pipeline Express was one of six built by Bailey. Riders sit in a small car, with handrails on either side. With the station located at the highest point of the ride, that meant the lift hill was located at the end of the ride.

Riders were seated individually with only one person per car.

The decision to demolish the ride was due to the high cost in maintenance and repair. Perkins said the track was covered in rust. The annual paintings required a crane rental.

No incidents have ever been reported on the ride. Perkins felt it was time to bring in something new. He plans to attend the **IAAPA Attractions Expo** in November where he'll be actively shopping. It's reported his budget falls between $400,000 to $500,000.

Perkins has owned Wild Water and Wheels since its grand opening in 1985, with the coaster opening in 1990.

He hopes a new attraction will revitalize the park. The park currently features a half-mile go-kart track, miniature golf, batting cages, bumper boats and a snack bar. It also features a picnic area.

Wild Water & Wheels is a play-as-you-go park. It opened for weekend operations this year on April 27, with full time operations from May 17-Sept. 2. It will revert back to weekends from Sept. 2-27.

•wildwaterwheels.ca

The 28-year-old Pipeline Express coaster, manufactured by Bailey Rides, at Wild Water & Wheels, Peterborough, Ont., is closed and is coming down. The 50-foot tower will remain and plans are to incorporate that tower into a new attraction for the 2020 season. What that new attraction will be has yet to be determined.
AT/B. DEREK SHAW

NEWSSPLASH

AT: Jeffrey L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

The new **Riley Park Pool** in Greenfield, Ind., is opening in stages. The $3.3 million renovation project faced weather delays and missed its Memorial Day weekend target. Now that the weather is getting warmer, officials decided to let the local citizens take advantage of the areas that have been completed. The pool along with its new zero-depth entry ramp and the water playground are now open and ready to use. Also ready are a redesigned concession area, shade structure and updated diving boards. The two 20-foot waterslides and cabana areas will open later in the season. The renovations follow a new splashpad that opened last year.

•

Cincinnati's **Coney Island Amusement Park**, on the banks of the Ohio River, opened its new dive pool, Cannonball Cove, on June 1. Cannonball Cove is the latest addition to the Sunlite Water Adventure which includes the historic 1925 Sunlite Pool, Typhoon Tower water play structure, and six waterslides. Cannonball Cove is a dedicated diving well with two, three-foot diving boards and one, nine-foot board.

"Diving boards have been a tradition at Sunlite Pool since 1925 and the tradition continues with Cannonball Cove. This is an experience that our guests love and want to have at Coney," said **Rob Schutter**, President of Coney Island. "We're extremely proud to offer this new attraction to our guests and the families of Cincinnati."

•

Santa's Village Amusement Park in Dundee, Illinois, is celebrating its 60th anniversary with the addition of a water park. Santa Springs, set to open this summer, will include a 10,000-square-foot, 8-inch deep wading pool, two-story interactive water play structure and six waterslides. The new Santa Springs replaces the former Racing Rapids water park that closed in 2006.

•

In keeping with the unique spelling of the town's name, **Typhoon Texas Pflugerville** has added a PFlowRider surfing simulator to the Austin-area park. The new PFlowRider is able to accommodate both the traditional body boards and stand-up boards. Other amenities added to that section of the park include corn hole boards, music and a mobile bar. The water park also added six new private cabanas, an upgraded filtration system to the Tidal Wave Bay wave pool and drink refill stations.

The Pflugerville water park is the second venture for Typhoon Texas after three college friends, "Aggies," from the Texas A&M University, looking for a new business venture, opened a Texas-themed water park in Katy, Texas, outside of Houston.

•

The new owners of **Wet'n'Wild Palm Springs** have revealed their vision for the park. Plans are underway to update and upgrade the former Wet N Wild Palm Springs, to create a state-of-the-art surfing park. The centerpiece will be a wave pool that is capable of delivering a "travelling" type wave which on which riders can surf. The owners hope to have the park open by next year but due to the nature of the upgrades, more time may be needed. The new owners plan to keep a number of existing slides and the lazy river but add a new restaurant, spa, gaming room, live entertainment stage and bar.

Having originally opened in 1986 as **Oasis Water Park**, the park has been through multiple ownership and name changes. In 2001 it was acquired by **Cedar Fair** and renamed **Knott's Oasis Water Park**, then a few years later **Knott's Soak City**. In 2013 Cedar Fair sold the property to **CNL Lifestyle Properties** who transformed the park into **Wet'n'Wild Palm Springs** for the 2014 season. CNL sold its attractions division in 2016 to **EPR Properties**, and EPR contracted **Premier Parks** to operate its water and theme parks.

In January of this year the park was acquired by **Pono Acquisition Partners I, LLC** who then announced that the park would not open in 2019 in order to make extensive renovations.

•

The City of Arlington, Wash. opened a splash pad this past Memorial Day, thanks to grants and community donations. The $1.3 million splash pad spans 3,300 square feet and features a number of interactive and random water features. The splash pad was funded through a $500,000 state recreation grant, with a $550,000 match from the Stillaguamish Tribe, and $150,000 contributed by the Rotary through their Friends of the Splash Pad fundraising efforts.

"The money was raised by the community for the children, to give the children a safe place to enjoy the water," City Administrator **Paul Ellis** said. "This was done without any taxpayer dollars."

The splash pad was constructed in Haller Park a popular recreation area on the banks of the Stillaguamish River. Upgrades to the park having been taking place since 2014 starting with a new playground, followed by restrooms, concessions and a picnic area. Almost all of the funding to overhaul the park has been raised by the local Arlington Rotary.

•

Wind Creek Hospitality has revealed interesting plans to transform the vacant **Bethlehem Steel** building, in Bethlehem, Pa. into a 300,000-square-foot indoor adventure/water park and hotel. The water park would be adjacent to the existing **Sands Casino** that opened in 2009 as one of five stand-alone casinos awarded slots by the Pa. Gaming Control Board. In May the **Las Vegas Sand Corp.** petitioned the gaming board to allow the sale of the casino to Wind Creek Hospitality, which is owned by the Alabama-based **Poarch Creek Band of Indians**.

Wind Creek is reportedly planning to spend $250 million for the water park and adjoining hotel, plus $90 million to expand the existing hotel.

The proposed water park would occupy 105,000 square feet.

Newest water coaster blasts off at Virginia's Water Country USA

AT: *Jeffrey Seifert*
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Just in time for the Memorial Day weekend, **Water Country USA** celebrated the grand opening of Cutback Water Coaster. Making its debut on May 24, 2019, it became the first RocketBlast coaster on the East Coast and a first for the state of Virginia.

"I'm certainly a big fan of traditional roller coasters, especially the ones at our sister park, Busch Gardens. To finally have a water coaster of our own at Water Country USA is a big deal," said **Philip Boykin**, leader of park operations at Water Country USA.

Aboard a four-person raft, Cutback Water Coaster's riders speed along an 856-foot-long slide, jet through tunnels and slide onto the wide-open space of five massive saucer-shaped features. The ride features an elevation change of 76 feet and reaches a speed of nearly 25 miles per hour. This newest RocketBlast from **ProSlide** of Canada takes advantage of a naturally sloped site, but still has elevated sections to provide the proper height. The four-person rafts are brought to the top of the slide by conveyor, but guests will have to walk up the slope and climb the steps of the ride tower in order to board. The new water coaster takes the place of the former Meltdown water slide, an inline, three-passenger boat ride that followed a similar slalom-like course down the hillside.

The RocketBlast technology uses sequential water jets positioned all the way up the coaster hills to apply consistent force. Patented, cup-shaped pockets on the side of the rafts capture that water's energy to propel the large rafts – holding as many as four people — uphill.

Once on board, riders descend immediately into a dark tunneled section then burst into daylight to encounter the first of five saucers. Upon exiting the saucer, riders encounter the first uphill blast before entering an S-shaped tunnel leading to the second

Guests rocket through brightly colored orange and yellow saucer sections on Cutback Water Coaster. COURTESY WATER COUNTRY USA

saucer. A second uphill blast rockets guests into the slide's signature move, a series of three saucers providing quick left, right, then left curves as if slaloming down a ski slope. One more blast leads to a final U-shaped tunneled section before gliding into the splashdown pool.

"Saucers three, four and five … are back-to-back-to-back, and that's why the ride is named Cutback," Boykin said. "You go into that right bank, then left bank, then right bank — it's a thrilling sensation. It's probably my favorite part of the ride."

"This thrilling water coaster has it all, from speeds of a roller coaster to refreshing splashes of a water slide," said **Suzy Cheely**, senior leader of design and engineering at Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Water Country USA. "Our guests are going to love this ride."

Opened in 1984, Water Country USA is part of the **SeaWorld Entertainment** family of parks. It is located just a few miles from **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** and multi-day passes are available to cover admission to both parks. The water park is now open daily through Labor Day with one bonus weekend following.

•buschgardens.com

FlowRider surf competition heats up at North Texas' Epic Waters

AT: *Jeffrey Seifert*
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — Texas may be famous for a lot of things, but surfing is probably not one of the first to come to mind. Even along the 3,359 miles of coast along the Gulf, the usually gentle ocean waves are not conducive for riding. That all changed in 1991 when **Tom Lochtefeld** developed a water park attraction to simulate the riding of waves in the ocean. Dubbed a FlowRider, the first one opened in Texas, with the help of **Jeff Henry** of **Schlitterbahn**, at the family's water park resort on the banks of the Comal River in New Braunfels.

Now, more than 25 years later, FlowRiders can be found at more than 180 water parks, resorts and even cruise ships all around the world. Flowboarding, the act of riding boards on FlowRiders has become a popular sport, and as with any sport, competition soon follows. Professional Flowboarders have been traveling the country, promoting the sport since the first tour was started in 2006. The popularity has increased so much that the 2020 Summer Olympics will feature surfing as an exhibition sport for the first time in Olympic history.

When the city of Grand Prairie was planning the **Epic Waters** indoor water park, **American Resort Management** (ARM), the company hired to program and manage the venue, placed an emphasis on creating a facility that had broad appeal to all ages including adrenaline-based attractions for the adventurous. A double FlowRider was included to fulfill part of that vision.

City officials were aware of the Flow Tour and saw the opportunity to create a multiple-day event. Working with the U.S Flow Tour, ARM secured Prime

Flowboarding demonstrations were held throughout the event to generate interest in the sport and provide lessons to up-and-coming boarders. COURTESY EPIC WATERS

Stop #3 of the FlowRider U.S. Flow Tour 2019. The Flow Tour attracts competitors of all ages with the hopes of becoming a regional champion, tour champion, national champion or even qualifying for the World Flowboarding Championships, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic in November. Prime Stops have a weighted point scale, guaranteed prize money for the Pro Divisions and direct inclusion in the National Tour Standing for FLOW Tour Members.

To turn what is usually a one-day stop in the tour into a multi-day event, Epic Waters sponsored several of the best professional Flowboarders in the world to be part of multiple demonstrations. The event was designed to immerse competitors and spectators alike into a "festival" environment with elements from Texas to Southern California. Epic Waters added in live music, cookouts, related vendors such as boat exhibitions, street performers and more, and FlowaPalooza was born. The multi-day event was held June 6, 7 and 8, 2019, at Epic Central and Epic Waters.

On Thursday, June 6, guests and participants had an opportunity to meet with Flowboarding pros. The evening finished off with the movie "*Soul Surfer*" on the Grand Lawn at 8:30 p.m. Friday activities started in the morning with games, kite flying, paddleboarding on the lake and sidewalk chalk art. Multiple sessions throughout the day featured Flow With the Pros Flowboarding exhibitions and lessons. The day finished with a concert by Southern Nights on the Grand Lawn.

Those same activities took place on Saturday, but the highlight of the day was the competition which began at 2 p.m. and continued through 9 p.m. The evening concluded with live music and an after party featured on the Grand Lawn.

BUSINESS & NEWSMAKERS

▸ The magic of Quassy — page 44 / Cedar Point's Forbidden Frontier — page 46

Europa-Park opens newest hotel, Krønasår; water park to follow

AT: *Tim Baldwin*
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

RUST, Germany — **Europa-Park**, a winner of *Amusement Today*'s Golden Ticket Awards for Best Park, has taken a giant leap in the resort's evolution. Krønasår — The Museum Hotel opened its doors on May 31.

Because of Europa-Park's remote location, the park's owners (the Mack family) knew in the 1990s that for people to commit to longer stays, it needed hotels in the area. With no hoteliers willing to take the leap for such a seasonal venture, the Mack family entered the accommodations business and built the park's first hotel in 1995, El Andaluz. Over the next two decades, the theme park developed into a full-fledged resort with five successful, highly rated hotels built on property. These accommodations led Europa-Park, despite its distance from populated cities, to reach the 5 million mark (and beyond) in annual attendance.

Krønasår — The Museum Hotel is the park's sixth hotel. What makes it distinctive, besides the detailed theming, is its location to the park's upcoming second gate, Rulantica. Termed a "water world" by the park, Rulantica will be a spectacularly themed, massive (32,600 square meters/350,900 square feet) indoor water park slated to open later this year in November. Krønasår has a direct bridge to the eventual entrance of Rulantica which spans a recreational space behind the hotel offering relaxation amenities as well as night life offerings. The project has been the responsibility of the younger Mack generation: Thomas, Michael and Ann-Kathrin.

"The theming and storytelling around the water world and new hotel are at a new level," said Michael Mack.

The 304 rooms and suites of Krønasår offer 1,300 beds among the hotel's seven floors. Rated as a four-star hotel, the theming is in the style of a natural history museum with a Nordic ambience. The hotel offers two meeting rooms: a smaller venue for up to 16 people and a larger space that accommodates up to 260 people. Krønasår also features two children's play areas, a hotel shop, a fine dining restaurant, family restaurant, a café and two-story bar. All eating and drinking establishments have both indoor dining as well as outdoor tables.

"As with all our projects, F&B plays an important part in the development of our new hotel. We want guests to fully buy into our theming and a gastronomic offer that matches the story is just one of many things we pride ourselves on," said Thomas Mack.

A lake behind the seven-story hotel provides ambience. Dining options include outdoor tables (above) as well as indoor seating. COURTESY EUROPA-PARK

"I couldn't have asked for a more exciting first project to really be involved with," said Ann-Kathrin Mack. "It is a huge chance as a young architect to work on such great buildings. The lovingly designed Scandinavian theming and level of detail are stunning."

Behind the hotel is a signature piece, a picturesque lake. The area covered is 4,500 square meters (48,437 square feet). Overflowing with ambience, the lake separates the hotel from Rulantica. An elevated bridge will allow hotel guests to enter the new water park directly.

"The opening of our sixth hotel marks an important milestone for Europa-Park," said Roland Mack, Europa-Park cofounder. "Rulantica is by far the largest project we have realized in the history of our family business. The new hotel is the first step towards the completion of this journey that we have been on for many years now."

"It is a truly amazing time at Europa-Park from a construction point of view," said Michael Mack. The new hotel, the water world, the Scandinaivan themed area, the Pirates of Batavia attraction, as well as new staff accommodations are all being built simultaneously."

According to park officials, when Rulantica opens in November, combined with the hotel, it will create 550 new jobs.

The hotel's museum theming carries into the bar. COURTESY EUROPA-PARK

Nine themed areas will welcome guests within Rulantica when it opens in November. COURTESY EUROPA-PARK

IAAPA®
EXPO EUROPE

THE **LEISURE INDUSTRY'S**
PREMIER EVENT IN EUROPE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

ACT NOW AND SAVE UP TO 25%.*

CONFERENCE: 16–19 Sept. 2019 | **TRADE SHOW:** 17–19 Sept. 2019

PARIS, FRANCE

EURO ATTRACTIONS SHOW IS **NOW IAAPA EXPO EUROPE.**

*Savings based on full price, on-site registration rates.

www.IAAPA.org/IAAPAExpoEurope

Magic in the air over the years at Quassy Amusement Park

AT: *Ron Gustafson*
Special to Amusement Today

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. – In 1965 folk rock band The Lovin' Spoonful soared onto the music charts with its debut album Do You Believe In Magic.

One could say the title track from that hit recording would be suitable for playing at Quassy Amusement & Waterpark more than a half-century later.

"There are not very many places where people can go to see live magic these days," noted Jim Sisti, the renowned magician who has produced the park's shows for 17 consecutive years.

"Quassy remains one of the few places that fits that bill," the Beacon Falls, Conn., performer said of the property where he and wife, Sandy, take up summer residency to present their magic and comedy act.

Magic shows were a staple ingredient at many regional amusement parks years ago, but most properties have replaced such productions with high-energy music or stunt shows, or darkened their stages all together.

But a 20-minute dose of wizardry mixed with Sisti's humor hasn't worn thin at family-owned Quassy.

"Jim and Sandy bring us a new show each year and it's really an ideal fit for our family clientele," park President Eric Anderson asserted. "They have great interaction with the audience and children assist in a number of the acts."

Performing for more than 25 years, Jim, 62, is a historian, author and inventor whose magic effects are marketed worldwide.

Jim and Sandy Sisti (above left) are shown at Quassy Amusement Park's Carousel Theatre stage. The couple have performed at the property for 17 consecutive years, producing a new show each season. Dan Tsukalas (above right) is shown pitching his magic tricks near Quassy's train station. Tsukalas sold the items he demonstrated, reportedly once selling items to a youngster who is now known as David Copperfield. At right, a promotional poster used by magician Harry Albacker. COURTESY QUASSY

Shows date back to 1960s

With a profound love of his craft and keen recollection of the history of magic shows at Quassy, Jim provided an interesting stroll down memory lane.

"Harry Albacker was probably the first magician to perform at the park," Jim said of the late Pittsburgh, Pa., artist who was known throughout the East, appearing at amusement parks, fairs and festivals.

It could be said that Albacker (1925-1994) was primarily a prankster as well as a great showman. His career included 42 appearances at the White House.

"He did his show with constant patter and it didn't matter to him what the audience reaction was," Jim reflected.

Albacker claimed he was born three minutes after famous illusionist and stunt performer Harry Houdini died (Oct. 31, 1926). The notion was the showman's way of getting free press — something he became known for throughout his career.

In 1949 he announced that he had invented polka dot paint — a hoax that filled a hotel room with paint company executives and the media who had swallowed the invitation hook, line and sinker.

What the anxious audience witnessed was yet another illusion by the trickster.

"I saw him at Quassy in the 1980s, dressed in a costume like a genie," Jim said. "He was what we called a 'put-and-take' magician: take a prop and demonstrate it and put it aside. He had more props than anyone I have ever seen. Harry was a real trooper."

A promotional poster referred to Albacker as The Trick-A-Minute Wizard and The Magician Who Made The Atlantic Ocean Disappear!

Pitchman on the premises

As for Jim Sisti becoming interested in magic, it dates back to his childhood days growing up in Connecticut.

"When I was a kid I used to go to the Danbury Fair and saw a pitchman named Dan Tsukalas selling magic tricks. I never thought about magic until I saw Danny and I bought my first tricks from him," Jim explained. "Danny used to be in Macy's during Christmas and once the weather warmed up, he went to Atlantic City (New Jersey) and did the New England fairs circuit after Labor Day."

Tsukalas, who resided in Bridgeport, Conn., worked his close-up magic at Quassy during the 1980s near the park's train station. At the same time, stage shows were going on at the other side of the property at the lakeside stage. Tsukalas, sticking to his tried-and-true formula, sold the very tricks he was demonstrating at the park.

"He would have crowds gathered around him," Jim recalled. "Interesting to note, too, is that Danny sold stuff to David Copperfield when he was a youngster."

Copperfield, whose real name is David Seth Kotkin, is said to be the most commercially successful magician in history.

In the mid-1980s another local performer, Peter White, enjoyed working Quassy's famous Friday Quarter Nights for several seasons.

"He had a good dove act and a couple of illusions," Jim said of White's performances. "He used the landing on the stairs leading out of the arcade instead of the stage to perform his act."

White was perhaps best known in magician circles for P&A Silks.

"He made the beautiful handkerchief silks that magicians used in their acts — really a lost art today," Jim continued. "They were the Cadillac of magic silk props."

White passed away in 2011.

Clowning around

In 1986 Jim Sisti finally took the stage at Quassy with Christopher Hurlbert of Durham, Conn.

"I was working in restaurants doing evening shows at the time and met Chris while doing pitch work with magic gear," Jim said of the partnership. "My day job was at a local radio station."

The duo became Jim Sisti & Pocus The Clown and appeared at the park through the 1987 season.

The magic act, according to Jim, was fashioned like an Abbott and Costello comedy routine with Sisti as the straight man and Chris the clown.

Hurlbert continues to perform internationally under the billing The Magic of Christopher.

"Quassy also had walk-around entertainers at the same time," Jim added.

Among them was a student juggler, Greg Bennick of nearby Woodbury.

"He was insanely talented for his age. I recall that he was one of the top three jugglers in the nation among his age group," the magician said. "Sometimes he would open my show juggling fire torches."

Bennick now resides in Seattle, Wash., and continues to perform juggling and magic with his artistry taking him to more than 25 countries.

"We still keep in touch," Jim emphasized.

Another walk-around artist during that era was Jim Grevas, also of Connecticut. He worked as a puppeteer with his most popular partner a highly-animated bird he had created.

Jim said Grevas went on to build props for haunted house attractions.

Numerous acts

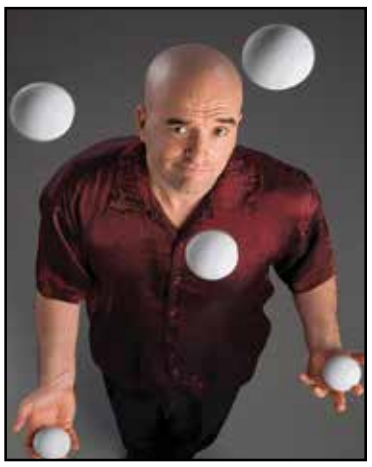
The 1988 season at Quassy brought about another change on the stage as the park hired a clown known as Sam The Tramp to do magic shows. The act remained at Quassy for several seasons until an agency was commissioned in the mid-1990s to bring in a variety of entertainment.

Among those hired were Hurlbert, who had by then produced his own magic show, and Guilford, Conn., ventriloquist Marlene Clark. Today Clark serves treasurer for the Society of American Magicians.

"I would fill in for Chris (Hurlbert) when he took a vacation," Jim said of his role during that time fame.

Renowned sideshow artist Todd Robbins performs as the Human Volcano during Ripley's Believe It Or Not Summer Sideshow at Quassy Amusement Park during the summer of 2012. COURTESY QUASSY

▸ **See MAGIC, page 45**



Above left, magician Jim Sisti (left) teamed up with Christ Hurlbert in 1986-87 to present Jim Sisti & Pocus The Clown. Puppeteer Jim Grevas (middle left) often performed in the park. Magician Harry Albacker (middle right) was the first magician to perform at the park. At right, walk-around entertainment in the park was provided by juggler Greg Bennick. COURTESY QUASSY

▶MAGIC

Continued from page 44

Residency begins

By the fall of 2002, Quassy Amusement Park had decided to take a new direction for its upcoming summer entertainment and Jim proposed a magic and comedy act that included his wife, Sandy.

"We've been here ever since," Jim said of the run that has lasted more than 15 years.

Each off-season the couple are busy at their home preparing the props and rehearsing for the new show.

While the Sistis occupied the Lakeside Theatre stage most of the season, Quassy did mix things up a bit in 2008 when it booked in the Kenya Safari Acrobats for a two-week period at the height of the summer. Besides its stunning acrobatics, the touring troupe also did a little magic.

The Kent Family Magic Circus, based out of California at the time, rolled into town for two-week performances in 2009 and 2010, providing a variety show that included illusions, magic and circus-style thrills.

The stage was moved from the lakeside after the 2010 season, finding its new home adjacent to the Grand Carousel.

Quassy renamed the venue the Carousel Theatre and additional depth was added to the performance platform to accommodate a handful of special events early in the season.

Carnival sideshow throwback

Always trying to keep things fresh for the upcoming year, Jim came up with the idea of doing a throwback to the carnival sideshows of yesteryear for the 2012 season.

"The park liked it," Jim explained, "And I knew just the guy to do the sideshow stunts."

Jim had crossed paths several times with Todd Robbins, a New York actor, magician, author, musician and — most importantly — renowned sideshow artist.

"We saw his one-man show, 'Play Dead,' in New York and at the time Todd also ran a sideshow school," Jim recalled.

Robbins also reportedly holds the world's record for devouring the most glass lightbulbs — estimated at more than 5,000 during his extraordinary career.

When approached about doing a two-week stint at Quassy, Robbins agreed to be part of Sisti's production.

Quassy acquired the rights to name the performance Ripley's Believe It Or Not Summer Sideshow and produced a series of banners, reminiscent of the era, highlighting some of the featured acts.

Robbins took the train from Manhattan to Connecticut each day to perform at the park. He was featured as a human volcano, blockhead, sword swallower, and, yes, a lightbulb eater.

Jim and Sandy opened with a few magic acts and late in the show Sandy literally took the hot seat as the shocking Electra.

It still works

When asked why the Quassy shows remain popular among guests, Jim said: "Seeing live magic is not as easy as saying 'let's go see a jazz band.' We present something unique in today's entertainment world and we know people appreciate our shows as they come back time and again."

Jim and Sandy will be dazzling guests wthrough early Oct. during Quassy's 111th season.

Amusement TODAY
Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

All the Industry News you need - wherever & whenever you need it!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

$45 per year

- ❑ 14 Issues (one year) $45
- ❑ 28 Issues (two years) $90
- ❑ 42 Issues (three years) $130

MasterCard VISA American Express Cards

First & Last Name
Credit Card Number
Company Name
Exp. Date
Security Code
Address
Name (as it appears on Card)
City, State, Zip (or Province & Postal Code)
Telephone (required)
Country
Email (required)

QUESTIONS? CALL (817) 460-7220 • Mail to: Amusement Today, PO Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005

Subscribe online at www.AmusementToday.com

WhiteWater and Weber Group partner on interactive attraction

Cedar Point goes outside the box with Forbidden Frontier on Adventure Island

AT: *Tim Baldwin*
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Forbidden Frontier repurposes space from previous retired attractions and features frontier characters who interact with guests as they explore the island. Participation activities include pulling rafts across a body of water (above left). Hammocks provide great relaxation for adults as children climb and burn off energy in the High Ground play structure provided by WhiteWater West (above right). AT/TIM BALDWIN; JEFFREY SEIFERT

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Hot on the heels of a Golden Ticket Award win for Best New Ride in 2018 for its outlandish Steel Vengeance roller coaster, **Cedar Point** completely switches gears and takes a different direction. Forbidden Frontier on Adventure Island uses the resources of former attractions, repurposing the space.

"It's always fun to talk about projects in our company because they are always collaborative, this one particularly," said GM **Jason McClure**, opening up about the origins of the attraction. "We knew Dinosaurs Alive would be coming to a conclusion. We started talking about what experience we would want to have on the island. A lot of options came forward. One of the things I've always found fascinating is Ghost Town Alive [at **Knott's Berry Farm**]."

The sister park in Buena Park, Calif., has performed that event in the past, which lets guests become involved in a storyline created fresh each day by a cast of characters in the themed area of Calico.

"I continued to hear good things," said McClure. "It was unique. I didn't want to take Ghost Town Alive and do it at Cedar Point. It's special to Knott's Berry Farm. Why did it connect to people? We knew we wanted it to be a little more active, which is why we created the play structure, but we wanted those character touchpoints and interactions. We were able to make that fit FrontierTown and Frontier Trail here at Cedar Point."

Forbidden Frontier on Adventure Island is populated with 20 characters from the Entertainment department, each with their own storyline. What unfolds throughout the day will vary. As guests wander onto the island, they are welcomed with banners proclaiming Happy Truce Day. As the story goes, two factions were in conflict, each possessing half of a treasure map. Cavalry officer Etta Fox served as mediator, stitching the map together and locking the map away for five years. After that time, a truce was declared between the tribes, and the celebration of a five-year restored peace continues to ease tensions.

Or are they? Officer Fox will hand you a copy of *The Island Ledger*. But depending upon what time of day guests visit the island, the edition may vary with that day's news — a beauty pageant among townsfolk, a daring robbery, a jailbreak … one never knows. Becoming involved with the townsfolk will engage imaginations.

Visitors determine their level of participation. Many will choose to become involved in the narrative, others will observe from a distance. However, many physical activities are available in the Forbidden Frontier. Using areas of the defunct Shoot the Rapids, guests can now pull themselves (or race) across the water on old-fashioned rafts. Animals are on the island if anyone wishes to converse with emus. Bridges and waterfalls make for interesting walks. Families can visit the jail or climb up in the fort.

At the heart of Adventure Island is a play structure called High Ground. **WhiteWater West** is the supplier, even though it is a dry structure. Rope climbs, net crawls and slides can let the younger ones burn off energy. The adults can happily watch below from the ample supply of hammocks, rocking chairs or lounges. Chilling out with a beverage while the kids play can be in order.

The theming throughout matches that of Frontier Trail, if not surpassing it. Working with **The Weber Group**, Cedar Point has used nineteenth century equipment, rustic cabins and wooden architecture to set the stage — and it's done quite effectively.

"It's a very different type of entertainment for us here at Cedar Point," said McClure. "Our Cedar Point Nights have been such a successful thing for us on the beach; we would see the different levels of engagement people would have. Some would watch from the boardwalk, others would go down and limbo with the DJ, others would have a drink by the firepits. We wanted to have all those different layers on the island, too. If you wanted to go all in on the narrative [of Forbidden Frontier], you could spend all day there."

In another offering to guests, Cedar Point presented Monster Jam Thunder Alley from May 18 – June 30 before passing it on to a sister park.

"It's a perfect partnership between us and **Feld Entertainment**," said **Tony Clark**, director of communications. "They entertain families in an arena setting, and we entertain families outside. It's a good marriage because a lot of folks are drawn to that kind of entertainment. It's something different; it's something larger than life. It gives people reason to visit the park even earlier than they usually do."

Five monster trucks were displayed, and guests could queue free of charge to ride inside two trucks that navigated a sculpted course outside the park's perimeter. Those that wanted to sit in one of the display models could immerse themselves into that tactile experience.

Two new restaurants have also been created. Hugo's offers Italian fare, while Backbeat Que Smokehouse BBQ serves up live music on the patio in addition to the barbecue recipes. Both venues were designed to move large amounts of people through the facility in a streamlined fashion.

"People want full experiences when they come out to the park. We've had world-class coasters and we want to be thought of for our other experiences. We've really invested in Food & Beverage in the past few years to upgrade the variety," said McClure.

Music is played three or four times a day at the BBQ venue.

• **cedarpoint.com**

Backbeat Que Smokehouse BBQ (above left) is one of two new restaurants at Cedar Point. Monster Jam Thunder Alley (right) allowed guests get up close and personal (right) with — and even ride! — monster trucks. AT/TIM BALDWIN

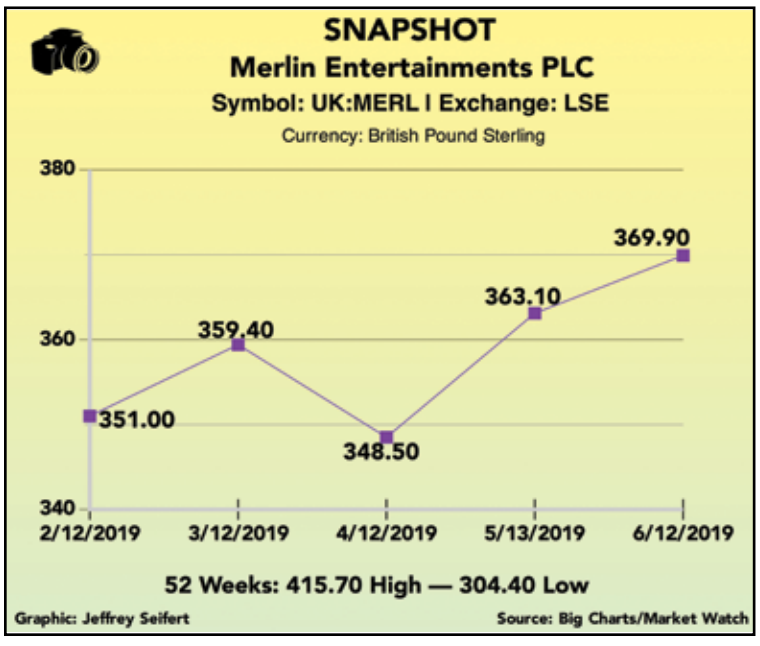
MARKET WATCH

COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 06/12/19	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	42.97	43.28	26.88
Merlin Entertainments Group / Legoland	UK:MERL	LSE	369.90	415.70	304.40
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	49.25	67.15	45.73
Comcast Corp./NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	41.45	43.96	30.99
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	135.72	142.37	100.35
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.21	0.41	0.17
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	77.86	80.75	61.78
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	4010.00	4345.00	2855.00
Haichang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.42	2.29	1.18
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	6.81	8.30	5.45
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	27.70	31.66	21.61
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	13.88	15.18	9.84
Royal Carribean Cruises, Ltd.	RCL	NYSE	124.27	133.60	89.48
Sansei Technologies, Inc.	JP:6357	TYO	1062.00	2160.00	1022.00
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	29.62	32.73	20.47
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	51.52	73.38	46.68
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	676.00	710.00	590.00
Village Roadshow	AU:VRL	ASX	2.82	3.9	1.73

STOCK PRICES ABOVE ARE GENERALLY QUOTED IN THE FOREIGN CURRENCY IN WHICH THE COMPANY IS LOCATED

Worldwide Markets: ASX, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock Exchange; **TSEC**, Taiwan Stock Excange, Corp.; **TYO/TSE**, Tokyo Stock Exchange

—SOURCES: Bloomberg.com; Wall Street Journal



DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S)	As of 06/10/19	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	$3.125	-$0.139
Midwest	$3.002	-$0.197
Gulf Coast	$2.843	-$0.194
Mountain	$3.114	-$0.230
West Coast	$3.282	-$0.207
California	$4.058	$0.068

CURRENCY

On 06/12/19 $1 USD =	
0.8833	EURO
0.7870	GBP (British Pound)
108.58	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9912	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.4371	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3270	CAD (Canadian Dollar)

BUSINESS WATCH

Stock buyback, new investment at SeaWorld

ORLANDO — **SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.** (NYSE: SEAS) has entered into an agreement to acquire approximately 5.6 million shares for approximately $150 million from an affiliate of **Pacific Alliance Group** (PAG). Additionally, long-term SeaWorld investor **Hill Path Capital, LP**, and certain of its affiliated investment funds have entered into an agreement for certain of such affiliated investment funds to acquire approximately 13.2 million shares from an affiliate of PAG, increasing its equity stake in the company to approximately 34.5 percent. SeaWorld said the buyback underscores the belief of management and the board in the company and its improving financial prospects.

Care Bears immersive fun afoot at Falcon's

ORLANDO — Global creative services firm **Falcon's Creative Group** has announced a worldwide agreement with **Cloudco Entertainment** (formerly **American Greetings Entertainment**) to develop retailtainment venue experiences that will bring the durable **Care Bears** merchandising franchise to life. The planned experiences, featuring themed environments, multimedia elements and merchandise, will allow Care Bears fans to step into and explore the characters' world in a hands-on adventure. The fictional group of multicolored bears, created in the early 1980s by artist **Elena Kucharik** for a line of greeting cards, became plush toys in 1983 and went on to appear in animated television shows and feature films.

Six Flags, Atari join on mobile game content

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corp.** (NYSE: SIX) and interactive entertainment producer **Atari** struck a licensing deal that will bring real-world Six Flags content to the hit **RollerCoaster Tycoon Touch** mobile game. The Six Flags content includes the company's roller coasters and attractions as well as some of its popular restaurants, retail stores and signature landmarks. The selected attractions will serve as special elements for RollerCoaster Tycoon Touch players, giving them the opportunity to design and manage their own digital theme parks via their mobile devices.

In brief...

•Gilbertsville, Pa.-based ticketing software producer **Gateway Ticketing Systems, Inc.,** has been named the 10th best of 50 businesses located in Berks County by the **Greater Reading Chamber Alliance**. The annual list comprises businesses making over $1 million in revenue per year. This is the ninth time Gateway has made the list.

•**Standard Amusements, LLC**, the would-be operator of Westchester County, N.Y.-owned **Playland** amusement park, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy — listing liabilities of more than $705,000. The company reportedly declared in the filing that the reorganization was needed after other alternatives were explored and because of "the unjustified, bad-faith efforts" of the county. Standard said it had invested more than $9 million in the property.

•According to a recent news report, the U.S.-China trade war has been tough on ride manufacturer **S&S Worldwide** of North Logan, Utah. Chinese customers, which normally account for about half of the company's annual business, now must pay a 25 percent tariff on S&S ride components made stateside — up from just 10 percent last year.

•Family entertainment center and entertainment engineering innovator **Two Bit Circus** is offering a new program, Park as Platform, designed to provide game developers with a streamlined approach to adapting games and experiences for location-based entertainment. The program leverages company's 38,000-square-foot "micro-amusement park" facility as a physical development and publishing platform, complete with revenue and data sharing.

Women INFLUENCE

Maegan Lane Wallace

Amusement Sales and Marketing
Maclan Corporation
Lakeland, Fla.

A view from the top...

Maclan Corporation was founded 44 years ago by Arnold "Arnie" Lane. The company manufactures urethane and rubber products for a variety of industries. It manufactures new roller coaster wheels, relines used roller coaster wheels and custom builds multiple products for the mining industry. The company has expertise in urethane, rubber, metal fabrication, CNC machining, sandblasting and painting. **Maegan Lane Wallace**, granddaughter of the company's founder, is at home spear-heading Maclan's amusement sales and marketing.

Accomplishments and affiliations...

- **Member, International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions**
- **Member, AIMS**
- **Member, New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions**
- **Member, Pennsylvania Amusement Parks Association**
- **Sponsors the wheels on the train ride at Give Kids The World**

Wallace loves her new adventure

LAKELAND, Fla. — Feeling like she had come to a significant cross road in her life without a map, Maegan Lane Wallace decided to step back and look around at her options.

Everything really was going well. In her late 20s, Wallace and her husband had just moved from Orlando, Fla., to Treasure Island, Fla. Wallace, who had graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in business administration with a focus on marketing, had been working in property management.

"Chad (Wallace) had just gotten a job in Treasure Island selling boats," Wallace said. "It was a good job so we went."

In doing so, however, she had to leave her job behind in Orlando.

"I just really wasn't sure what I wanted to do," she said. "I just didn't think I wanted to go back into property management."

So when her dad invited her to go to the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Expo in 2012, she decided to go.

Her father, Phil Lane Sr, who with his father, Arnold "Arnie" Lane, founded Maclan Corporation, based in Lakeland, Fla., had been traveling to the expo to show vendors the company's products.

"He said why don't you just come and hang out in the booth," Wallace said. "You can help us out."

Wallace's brother, Philip "J.R." Lane Jr., had taken an interest in family business and was marketing to the amusement industry. Wallace, on the other hand, as well as her two other sisters (Jennifer Evans and Rebecca Engle) had never really shown much interest in the company. Her younger brother, Richard Lane, does work at Maclan.

"It was manufacturing," Wallace said. "It was hot, sweaty and dirty work. I remember him coming home and just being hot and sweaty. I didn't want to do that."

She doesn't really have many memories of the plant from her youth. She does recall stopping by there with her mom, Vickie Lane, from time to time. What she does remember is taking dance lessons, playing soccer, boating, swimming and being a cheerleader in high school.

But call it fate or call it destiny, that trip to IAAPA in 2012 changed her life.

"I saw a whole different side of the business that week," she said. "I saw how we supported so many other businesses. Everyone was so nice. I loved it."

By the end of the week, she didn't need a map to decide what road to take at that cross roads.

"I saw my spot," she said. "I saw my next great adventure."

By Monday morning of the next week, she was sitting in her father's office presenting him with a written proposal that included a forecast where Maclan could go in the amusement industry, how it could get there and why her specific skills could work as a catalyst.

It might not have been a perfect proposal, but it had the desired effect. Her dad gave her a chance and that was all it took. She dug in her heels. She had a lot to learn.

"I spent a lot of time at the plant over the next couple of years," Wallace said. "In fact, I would come over from Treasure Island on Monday and not go home again until Friday."

She took work home. She had already begun to build some relationships in the industry and worked on others.

"I think if people believe in you, they will believe in what you have to sell," she said. "And, of course, you had to have the product to back it all up."

She had no doubt about that. But she also felt she had come a little late to the party.

"I felt like everyone already knew everyone else," she said. "I needed to catch up."

She was patient and things started happening. In 2016, Maclan became the authorized wheel vendor for Vekoma Rides Parts & Services BV.

It was a broad move resulting in Maclan investing in advanced technological equipment and a 5,000-square-foot expansion to house it in 2017. The company now has 80,000-square-feet of manufacturing space on 10 acres with room to grow.

It also caused business to continue to grow.

In the middle of this success for Wallace, she and her husband made another very important decision. They were ready to start a family of their own, but Wallace worried.

"I felt that being pregnant and having children would negatively effect my business," Wallace said. "I was afraid that people would no longer think I was capable, that my judgement would not be totally on them."

Her first child, Leslie, was born in January 2016. That didn't stop Wallace from attending the IAAPA trade show and being on her feet, in heels, the entire week. Her second child, Cayson, was born about 13 months later. And again Wallace was on the IAAPA Expo trade show floor.

"The only difference that second year was that I made sure I brought a stool along," she said.

And her fears about being a mom went unfounded. She continues to look at ways to expand, but not too quickly.

"There are so many things we can do," she said.

—Pam Sherborne

ON THE MOVE

Los Gatos, Calif.-based **Sixense Enterprises, Inc.**, announced that games industry veteran **Joel Breton**, former head of **Vive Studios**, has joined the company as president of its studios and executive vice president of product development. He is tasked with leading the strategy for creation and delivery of augmented reality and virtual reality software targeting the healthcare, training and entertainment sectors. Breton started his career in product development at **Sega of America** in the mid-1990s and has since worked in development roles for companies including **2K Sports**, **Bethesda Softworks**, **MTV Networks** and **505 Games**. Breton's stint leading Vive Studios began in 2016.

Breton

Global attractions industry solutions provider **Accesso Technology Group** of Orlando has appointed **John Guilfoy** to the newly created role of COO. He is responsible for leading the day-to-day operations of the company and driving growth, innovation and customer success — aligning the product, customer operations and support teams across the business. Previously, Guilfoy, with more than two decades of experience in the travel, technology and financial services industries, served in various senior executive roles at **TravelClick**, a software solutions provider for the hospitality industry.

Guilfoy

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia-based **Saudi Entertainment Ventures** (SEVEN) has hired **Jennifer Hanser** as executive vice president of strategy, mergers and acquisitions. A financial analyst with **Deutsche Bank** early in her career, Hanser went on to positions with **Merrill Lynch**, **AOL**, **FIFA**, **Major League Baseball** and **Sony Music Entertainment**. SEVEN is the entertainment sector executive and investment arm of the **Public Investment Fund** and became the first entity to obtain a license for operating movie theaters in Saudi Arabia, partnering with U.S.-based global theater operator **AMC Group** (*Amusement Today*, June 2019).

Hanser

Domenic Sicoli has been tapped as director of design services for Vancouver-based **WhiteWater**. With 23 years of experience across diverse industries and functions, Sicoli has honed his skills in master planning, architecture, landscape architecture and interior design in North America, China, the Middle East, Europe and Africa. A multidisciplinary designer who has worked on a wide range and scale of projects around the world, Sicoli most recently was responsible for global technical services and project management for a portfolio of luxury lifestyle hotels and resorts.

Sicoli

Firestone Financial, headquartered in Needham, Mass., announced at the end of May that **Michael Smith**, executive vice president and COO, assumed the company's top leadership position after longtime CEO **David Cohen** transitioned out of the company earlier in the month. The management change is part of a succession plan that has been in place since **Berkshire Bank** acquired the company in 2015. Smith, who joined Firestone Financial in 2008, has led all key functional areas of the business during his tenure. Customers and partners will experience no significant changes in the management of their accounts or contacts following the transition.

Smith

Itasca, Ill.-based **Family Entertainment Group** (FEG), a designer, developer and operator of family-oriented entertainment and amusement gaming facilities, has tapped **Wayne Stancil** as vice president of brand development. A hospitality veteran with nearly 40 years of experience in high-volume casual and themed family entertainment concepts, including **Darden Restaurants**, **Applebee's Intl.** and **Landry's, Inc.**, Stancil most recently served as vice president of operations for **Main Event Entertainment**, where he was responsible for all team members, training, development, new center openings and guest service.

Stancil

Betson Enterprises, a division of **H. Betti Industries, Inc.**, has promoted **Richard Zayas-Bazan** to president of **Betson Imperial Parts & Service Co.** In his new role, he will oversee full operations of this key division. Joining Betson in 1997 as a customer service representative, Zayas-Bazan has spent the past 22 years rising through the ranks — most recently serving as vice president of the division, where he has built a reputation within the industry as a strategic thinker with a track record of delivering consistent, profitable growth. Under his leadership, Betson has secured exclusive master distributor rights for **Goldfinger Monitors**. In addition, he has spearheaded strategic parts distribution partnerships with leading brands such as **Cafection Evoca Group**.

Zayas-Bazan

Gatorland CEO honored by local journal as park turns 70

McHugh

ORLANDO — Mark McHugh, president and CEO of Gatorland wildlife and adventure park, was honored by the *Orlando Business Journal* in May as one of 19 Top CEOs of Distinction in Central Florida. He is the only executive on the list from the region's tourism industry. McHugh has led Gatorland for the last 23 years, positioning the company as both a top authority on alligators and a one-of-a-kind Sunshine State attraction. In that time, he has grown the 70-year-old park with new features including the Gator Gully Splash Park, Rare White Alligators, Screamin' Gator Zipline, Gator Gauntlet Accessible Zipline, Baby Gator Swamp and Stompin' Gator Off-Road Adventure. This year, McHugh launched the Gatorland Global conservation program — expanding the park's outreach from rescuing wildlife to assisting crocodile experts around the world.

Reflections ON FUN

AT: Lottie Minick

The high and the mighty

This month's story comes courtesy of Tommy Parrish, a former ride supervisor at Magic Mountain (pre-Six Flags), Valencia, Calif. Enjoy!

In 1971, **Bob Minick**, assistant general manager and director of operations at newly opened **Magic Mountain**, then owned by **Newhall Land and Farming Co.**, hired me and my friend Duane as ride supervisors. Duane and I worked the night shift, as daytime summer temperatures just north of Los Angeles often hit triple digits.

One evening, our radios crackled with word that a mischievous ride operator had climbed halfway up one of the sky ride stanchions. We broke into a jog. "That kid's had a lot of infractions," Duane said.

As we arrived at the scene, Duane, a 250-pound former high school linebacker, sprinted to the base of the tower and headed up the ladder. Approaching the kid, he ordered: "Get your butt down here or jump, or I'll throw you down."

I'd never seen anyone move so fast.

Through the radio, a fellow employee warned, "Is he down? Minick's fast-walking toward you from the other end of the park." The moment the kid set foot on the ground, we hustled him to a security guard.

Just then, Bob rounded the corner. "All good here?" he asked.

We nodded casually.

"My treat for coffee," Bob said.

Whew! We narrowly escaped reprimand with that magic dismount.

Lottie Minick is a 45-year attractions industry veteran and co-owner of Dallas-based Minick Associates, a design firm founded by her late husband, Bob. Her monthly column features behind-the-scenes anecdotes of her own and from those who have worked in the business. Got a fun industry story? Email lottie@minickassociates.com.

Middle East expansion for CAVU Designwerks

VICTORIA, Canada — **CAVU Designwerks, Inc.** (CAVU), an attractions provider specializing in media-based attractions for the themed entertainment industry, is establishing a presence in the Middle East. The new branch, servicing Riyadh, Beirut and Abu Dhabi allows CAVU to develop closer relationships with clients in the MENA region and provide seamless services to CAVU's clients.

Recent policy changes allow movie theatres to operate in Saudi Arabia, and the government is encouraging the development in the entertainment industry including building FECs and theme parks.

International tourism in Saudi Arabia is forecast to grow by 5.8 percent-per-year from 2018 to 2022, according to a **BMI Research** report. "As the investment into the amusement park industry grows across the Middle East, we at CAVU want to ensure that we offer a local presence during this exciting time of growth," said **Peter Schnabel,** CAVU Designwerks CEO.

"By having a location that's close to the expanding Saudi Arabia market, we are able to provide close support and align ourselves with our clients and their needs," stated **Mark Stepanian**, CAVU's vice president of innovation and engineering.

•cavudw.com

MAILBAG

Honored by history

To the Editor:

Thanks for the nice article in *Amusement Today* on the Zipper. B. Derek Shaw researched it very well and had a lot of interesting facts about the history of the ride. We have heard lots of compliments from our customers!

Dick Chance, CEO
Chance Rides

SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

▸ Funtown Splashtown updates classic Scrambler — page 52 / Summer Operations Camp — page 56

Greater accessibility the latest attraction at Santa Monica Pier

L.A. tourist destination adds ADA-compliant path, carousel chariot

AT: *Dean Lamanna*
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — As cherished elements of the seaside experience, boardwalks and amusement piers lead visitors to spectacular views and lasting memories.

These wooden promenades can also present challenges to those who use wheelchairs, scooters, and even canes and walkers. The planks sometimes form a rough, uneven surface, and the gaps between them can snag wheels and mobility aids.

Last winter, the **Santa Monica Pier** took a series of steps to enhance accessibility for the millions of visitors it welcomes annually. The upgrades, which comply with the **American Disabilities Act** (ADA), include a wheelchair-friendly deck path, a new chariot on the pier's historic carousel, and new entrance ramps at **Heal the Bay Aquarium** and the Mexican restaurant Mariasol.

The pier completed several ADA-compliant upgrades last winter. Administrator Elana Buegoff (right) demonstrates the fold-up bench seating on a new wheelchair-accessible carousel chariot. A new path running the pier's length (above) provides a smoother route for mobility-impaired visitors.
AT/DEAN LAMANNA

"The Santa Monica Pier is an open and welcome platform for everyone," said **Elana Buegoff**, pier administrator with the City of Santa Monica's Economic Development Division, during an early-June visit *Amusement Today* paid to the 110-year-old local landmark. "We just want to make sure that we're able to have people of all abilities come and enjoy the pier and the carousel."

The most impactful addition is the ADA-compliant path spanning the pier's 1,080-foot length, completed in early February. Starting at the pier's easternmost entrance, near Ocean Front Walk, the five-foot-wide route runs to an ADA-accessible fishing area at the western end of the pier.

The 50-foot-long flexible mats that form the contiguous path are a product called AccessMat, supplied by **AccessRec, LLC**, of Clifton, N.J. They are made from non-woven polyester filament — a mesh-like, durable, UV-resistant material that drains water off rapidly and is easy to maintain and replace. The project called for some 15,500 square feet of AccessMat to be secured to the pier's deck with screws.

"The idea was to make sure we have a smooth surface that covers the gaps in the deck boards," Buegoff said. "It may or may not be permanent, but it's a solution."

Offshoots from the main east-west path connect to other ADA-accessible facilities as well as the two-acre **Pacific Park** and the 1922 **Philadelphia Toboggan Co.**-built carousel — a National Historic Landmark that has been housed in the iconic Looff Hippodrome at the front of the pier since 1947.

The carousel, operated for the city since 2001 by **Roth Management**, saw one of its two chariots replaced with an ADA-compliant one that incorporates the ornate design and color scheme of the original. (The chariot removed from the ride has been stored for preservation and possible future display.) The new chariot features a latched, fold-up bench allowing for wheelchair access / parking, plus seating for a companion. A portable ramp kept in a closet adjacent to the ride can be rolled out quickly by two attendants and positioned for wheelchair access to the carousel platform.

"It's hard to tell the original chariot and the new chariot apart," Buegoff said. "We want to convey to other carousel operators that you can be ADA accessible without compromising the machine's beauty and history."

Meanwhile, Pacific Park, located just west of the carousel and operated separately by **Premier Parks, LLC,** is doing its part with ADA-accessible restrooms and other facilities. Although none of its rides are configured to allow wheelchairs within the ride system, all attractions are available to all guests — including those with impaired mobility, as long as they are assisted on and off the ride by someone in their party. Some of the park's attractions have auxiliary entrances for the convenience of disabled guests. (Complete information at pacpark.com.)

The pier itself and surrounding city beach have other ADA-related and general safety features. Buegoff pointed out a gangway at the far west end of the pier, located discreetly behind some restrooms, that is equipped with a sock-like, seven-meter-long fabric emergency escape chute that unfurls down to a rescue boat. And recently, two ADA-compliant electric beach wheelchairs joined a small fleet of manual ones to offer improved access to the sand.

"I'm on a really committed city team," said Buegoff, who helped coordinate the ADA upgrades. "Our engineering and maintenance staff, my office of pier management, our landmarks commissioner and attorney's office — we all work together to make sure the pier is as accessible as possible."

• **santamonicapier.org**

Mariasol restaurant installed a ramp meeting ADA standards (right). Folded away on a gangway at the pier's west end is a fabric emergency escape chute (above) that can evacuate guests to a rescue boat.
AT/DEAN LAMANNA

DEDICATED TO SAFETY 24/7/365

PREMIER SERVICE™
a division of Premier Rides

SPARE PARTS | REPLACEMENT VEHICLES | RIDE RELOCATION
RIDE REHABILITATION | CHAIN & SPROCKET REHABILITATION
CHAIN & SPROCKET REPLACEMENT | LEGACY RIDE UPGRADES
SAFETY MODIFICATION SERVICES | QUEUE GATE SYSTEMS
MAGNETIC BRAKE UPGRADES | CONTACT US FOR A QUOTE

PREMIER RIDES | 1007 EAST PRATT STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21202 | WWW.PREMIER-RIDES.COM | INFO@PREMIER-RIDES.COM | +1.410.923.0414

Legoland California relocates Duplo Playtown, debuts 4D film

Upgrades precede big 20th anniversary news soon to come

AT: *Dean Lamanna*
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

After celebrating its 20th birthday in March, Legoland California Resort relaunched Duplo Playtown with a new train ride and enhanced attractions in a new, more central location. It also premiered another physical effects-filled 3D film experience, *Lego City 4D — Officer in Pursuit!* AT/DEAN LAMANNA; COURTESY LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA RESORT (FILM STILL)

CARLSBAD, Calif. — True to the nature of the classic toy bricks that inspired it, **Legoland California Resort** — celebrating its 20th anniversary this year — continues to build and evolve in imaginative ways.

In early May, the San Diego-area theme park unveiled its newly enhanced Duplo Playtown, which has been relocated to a promontory overlooking the park. And in April, it debuted *Lego City 4D — Officer in Pursuit!* in the Lego Showplace Theater.

Corrinne Bollendorf, public relations manager for Legoland, told *Amusement Today* that Duplo Playtown was moved to make way for a major new attraction that will be announced Aug. 15. Construction equipment was active at the former Duplo Playtown site adjacent to the park's Heartlake City section during *AT*'s visit a week before Memorial Day.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony held May 9 for the reimagined area, which features interactive structures and activities aimed primarily at the five-and-under set, included the donation of $80,000 to the San Diego and Southern California chapters of **Ronald McDonald House Charities**. More than 30 families from the organization attended the event.

The area's sole mechanical ride, a new kiddie train called Legoland Express, came from park parent company **Lego Group**'s headquarters in Billund, Denmark. "We call it a 'pink-knuckle ride' — great for the younger ones experiencing a theme park for the first time," Bollendorf said.

Duplo Playtown also has about a dozen playhouses containing hands-on activities, slides, puzzles and games that encourage children to use their imagination and creativity. Kids can explore a barn, a fire station, a grocery store, a hospital and a maze housing an interactive scarecrow. A foam-cushioned recreation surface suitable for playing and comfortable walking covers much of the area.

The more central location is elevated and scenic, with the smaller structures and train positioned around the Kidpower Tower, which allows children and parents to hoist their own two-person seat up a pylon using a rope and then "free-fall" back to earth. On a clear day, the Pacific Ocean can be glimpsed from the tallest part of the attraction. Parents can watch the Coast Cruise boat tour passing on the nearby lake while monitoring their youngsters.

"It's a good place for a photo op, to hang out and let the younger ones get their energy out," said Bollendorf, pointing out the availability of loose Lego bricks throughout Duplo Playtown for impromptu kiddie construction projects.

Additional features in the planning include a restroom and shaded seating.

The Duplo Playtown reintroduction followed a month after the premiere of *Lego City 4D — Officer in Pursuit!*, one of several 4D films that play in rotation daily at the Lego Showplace Theater.

The new movie takes guests on a fun-filled adventure alongside Lego City police officers in a chase across town as they search for a mischievous crook. Experiencing water, wind and bubble effects in the theater, the audience, with the aid of 3D glasses, becomes part of the action during the chaotic pursuit.

Opened with just 12 attractions on March 20, 1999, the 128-acre Legoland California Resort now has two hotels and three gates (including **Legoland Water Park** and **Sea Life Aquarium**) encompassing more than 60 rides, shows and attractions.

• **legoland.com/california**

SAFETY MARKET PLACE

The Hoffman Consulting Group, LLC
Serving the Amusement Industry
•Safety & Security
•Operations
•Risk & Crisis Management
•Industry Defense
685 S. Streeter Rd.
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452
(419) 607-0431
www.thehoffmancg.com

CONTROL SYSTEMS & CONSULTING FOR THE AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY
NEW INSTALLATIONS
RETROFITS
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER CONSULTING
IRVINE ONDREY ENGINEERING
We Control the Thrills!
CALL 734.353.0679
WWW.IRVINEONDREY.COM BRIAN@IRVINEONDREY.COM

SERVING THE AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY WITH SPECIALTY STEEL FABRICATION
Intermountain Lift Inc.
Phone 801.489.3652
Fax 801.489.5852
P.O. Box 686
Springville Utah, 84663
WWW.INTERMOUNTAINLIFT.COM

mobaro | park
Why are you still using paper checklists?
Discover digital at: mobaropark.com

Keep our amusement park industry strong!
Buy products and services from these suppliers.

Funtown Splashtown updates iconic Scrambler ride for the 2019 season

AT: *Pam Sherborne*
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

SACO, Maine — It is hard to know who is happier with the new concrete dome built this past winter to house **Funtown Splashtown's** Scrambler, manufactured by **Eli Bridge Co.** and installed in the park 43 years ago.

Called Atmosphere, riders are seeing updated laser and light shows and are certainly staying cooler with the concrete dome versus the airform vinyl dome. Funtown Splashtown staff will have an easier way to go. They will not have to dismantle the ride this winter nor will they have to reassemble it in the spring.

For generations, park guests have taken at least one spin on the Scrambler that, until the 2019 season, has been housed in an airform vinyl bubble. The bubble allowed park operators to add light shows as well as other special effects.

It also created some hot temperatures and high maintenance. At the end of every season, the ride had to be dismantled. And, of course, that meant at the beginning of every season, it had to be reassembled.

"This (the scrambler) has always been one of the most labor-intensive attractions to get ready and winterize each season," said **Bill Cormier,** the park's senior vice president and a member of the founding family.

"Once a concrete dome is up, it's up," he said. "I don't have to worry about hurricanes and wind storms and losing power. What I'm looking forward to is a building that's going to be hard as a rock. It's going to save me work, it's going to be turnkey. In the spring, I'll turn on the light, do a little dusting and we'll be ready to go."

The new concrete dome housing the Scrambler will save winterizing costs. In addition, previously retired effects are returning to the attraction thanks to improved climate control. COURTESY FUNTOWN SPLASHTOWN

Air conditioning was installed inside the reinforced concrete dome. And riders are noticing an uptick in technological changes with the light and laser shows. In addition, some of the ride's iconic art work, like the red-eyed skull and the blue bunny, have come out of a heat-induced retirement.

The signature sound track, the Electric Light Orchestra's "Fire on High" will not change.

"And we are keeping the entrance and exit tunnels," Cormier said. "This ride is loved by so many of our guests, we want to maintain the experience."

The park hired **Dome Technology**, headquartered in East Idaho Falls, Idaho, to design and build the four-inch thick structure. Dome Technology has been in business for 35 years, but this is the first project in an amusement park for the company, which is known for building domes for storage.

Conditioning the Astrosphere inside the vinyl dome also has been difficult over the years, with weather dictating temperatures inside, including highs in the summer that exceed those outside.

"Not good for equipment and not good for team members," Cormier said.

The old vinyl dome, which measured about 75 feet in diameter and had been constantly inflated, didn't get thrown away. According to reports, the yellow-and-white vinyl will be turned into high-end park souvenirs.

• **funtownsplashtownusa.com**

Light shows as well as other special effects have been part of the Scrambler ride experience at Funtown Splashtown for generations. COURTESY FUNTOWN SPLASHTOWN

Schlitterbahn Waterparks host 'Women Learn to Surf Day' events

NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas — Schlitterbahn Waterparks celebrated National Women Learn to Surf Day with lessons at its South Padre Island, Corpus Christi, New Braunfels and Galveston parks. The events featured several national champion female surfers on-hand to teach women how to surf on the park's inland surf ride, the Boogie Bahn.
COURTESY SCHLITTERBAHN WATERPAKRS

Accesso selected as the New York Botanical Garden ticketing partner

ORLANDO, Fla. — **The New York Botanical Garden** (NYBG) has entered into a strategic three-year partnership agreement with **Accesso Technology Group plc**) to implement a multiphase integration of ticketing, eCommerce and global distribution systems, set to launch in fall 2019.

A verdant oasis nestled in the heart of the Bronx, NYBG welcomes more than 1 million visitors on an annual basis. In an environment as competitive as New York City, cultural institutions must be nimble enough to respond to ever-changing consumer trends and behaviors. Knowing the city's unique competitive landscape, the Botanical Garden required a technology partner that would be able to execute on the company's current and future needs.

NYBG's variety of offerings — general admission tickets, special events and a host of membership levels — added another layer of complexity for consideration.

"It's an honor to serve as a dedicated partner to an institution that has such global and historical impact," said **Paul Noland**, Accesso CEO. "With Accesso's holistic approach to the specific needs of cultural sites and institutions, we look forward to launching this integration for this institution to continue to flourish in its goal of educating visitors on the natural world and empowering them to conserve it."

Used in tandem, the Accesso Passport ticketing platform and Accesso Siriusware software suite provide end-users a seamless, hassle-free experience, whether they choose to purchase tickets online or at the gate — all while enabling operators to drive incremental revenue and gain actionable insights into visitation patterns and visitor behaviors. Implementation of these solutions will augment NYBG's capacity to focus on delivering best-in-class experience for patrons of the urban oasis.

NYBG also plans to utilize Accesso's global distribution platform – Ingresso – to expand its sales reach to international channels like **Reserve with Google**, **Groupon**, and **TripAdvisor**. NYBG will now be able to connect to over 1 billion potential customers around the globe, when and where they shop, through a single platform optimized for quick, mobile-based purchasing decisions.

•**accesso.com**

EVERYTHING YOU NEED, RIGHT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!
›Touchscreen interface
›Redundant controls (joystick & touchscreen)
›Maintenance available onscreen
›Remote access for troubleshooting
›Easy to operate & train
ELI BRIDGE COMPANY
Building rides people have enjoyed for over a century.
217-245-7145 · FAX: 217-479-0103 · elibridge.com · EMAIL: info@elibridge.com

SAFETY MARKET PLACE

Keep our amusement park industry strong!
Buy products and services from these suppliers.

AIMS INTERNATIONAL

NEWS & NOTES

www.aimsintl.org

Amusement Industry Manufacturers
and Suppliers International, Ltd.
P.O. Box 92366 • Nashville, Tenn. 37209
Phone: (714) 425-5747 • Fax: (714) 276-9666
Mary Jane Brewer • mj.brewer@aimsintl.org
Holly Coston, (714) 697-6654, h.coston@aimsintl.org

Early registration opens in July

The 2020 **AIMS Safety Seminar** will be held January 12-17 in Galveston, Texas at the Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis Resort. The early registration fee will be $595 from now until October 1. Register now to get the early bird rate! AIMS has secured a special discounted hotel rate for attendees, $115 per night at the adjacent Galveston Hilton. As those who attended the 2019 seminar know, the setting is perfect for the AIMS Safety Seminar, with all classes being held in one central area, a great hotel in the beautiful San Luis Resort, plenty of nearby places to eat and shop, plus the added attraction of Galveston's Pleasure Pier and Schlitterbahn water park nearby.

The seminar is a must attend for both operators and manufacturers and suppliers who need to stay abreast on the latest trends and topics surrounding the industry's No. 1 priority worldwide: safety.

Scholarships are available

Thanks to the generosity of two great industry associations, scholarships to the AIMS Safety Seminar are available to qualified individuals.

The **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions** (IAAPA) provides five scholarships to the AIMS Safety Seminar in memory of **Alan Ramsay** who was an avid industry supporter and safety advocate. Applications can be found on the AIMS website at aimsintl.org.

The **Outdoor Amusement Business Association** (OABA) offers four scholarships to the AIMS Safety Seminar for OABA members who are first-time Safety Seminar attendees. One of these scholarships is dedicated in memory of **June Hardin**, owner of Wapello Fabrications, who strived for quality, safety and ASTM standards throughout her career. OABA members can contact oaba@oaba.org for more information and AIMS scholarship applications.

All AIMS Safety Seminar scholarships cover the $595 tuition fee, which includes class materials, an opening reception, all lunches and breaks, and 40 hours of continuing education credit. Additional fees for testing and certification and travel expenses are not included.

AIMS International news

In case you haven't heard, there are some big changes happening on the AIMS staff. **Mary Jane (MJ) Brewer**, started in her new role as executive director at AIMS in early June, and is replacing **Karen Oertley**, who has retired after five productive years in that role. Karen will be greatly missed and we wish her the best of luck with retirement! We suspect that we will still see her from time to time at events. **Holly Coston**, long-time AIMS seminar manager, is remaining in her position and will be instrumental, as always, in the planning and execution of the annual AIMS Safety Seminar. For information about the annual safety seminar, or any questions for the new AIMS executive director, please email: info@aimsintl.org.

Upcoming events

The **AIMS International Annual Board Meeting** will be held on September 5, 2019 prior to the **2019 Golden Ticket Awards**, presented by *Amusement Today*, at **Silverwood Theme Park** in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. We encourage and appreciate input on what AIMS can do to support our mission to improve amusement industry safety through leadership in education. Names of all AIMS board of directors can be found on our website.

The **AIMS International Safety Award** will be presented during the Golden Ticket Awards on September 7, 2019 to an individual or organization that demonstrates leadership, innovation, and foresight in improving safety in the amusement industry.

From all of us at AIMS, enjoy your summer and stay SAFE!

Space for this AIMS page is provided courtesy of *Amusement Today* as a corporate partner of AIMS Intl. Content is provided by *AT* & AIMS.

Employee dorms for Wilderness at the Smokies

SEVIERVILLLE, Tenn. — **Wilderness Resorts and Waterparks** ownership group announced that they have received city approval to build two employee housing facilities near their **Wilderness at the Smokies** property.

Each dormitory will consist of 70 apartment-style rooms with a bathroom and shower in every room. The dormitories will house approximately 270 employees each. Each facility will include a large common area and kitchen for the employees to utilize.

"We recognized the need for student housing in the Smoky Mountain region, and we are pleased to be part of the solution to address this," stated **Joe Eck**, COO of Wilderness Resort and Waterparks.

Scheduled to break ground in the summer 2019, the dorm construction has a completion date of May 2020. The dormitories will be located at Gists Creek Road

Wilderness at the Smokies is the Smoky Mountain region's largest waterpark resort and family entertainment center. It is located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, situared in Sevierville, Tenn.

The resort features 234 Stone Hill guest rooms; 472 River Lodge suites and 7 Villas; an 84-degree, year-round indoor waterpark; two seasonal outdoor waterparks; an indoor family entertainment center; a variety of dining and shopping options; a 36-hole championship golf course and more than 200,0000square-feet of meeting and convention space.

Wilderness Resorts and Waterparks is a Wisconsin-based hotel and hospitality development and management company. In addition to Wilderness at the Smokies, Wilderness Resort and Waterparks owns and operates **Wilderness Resort**, **Glacier Canyon Lodge** and **Wilderness on the Lake** in Wisconsin Dells.

•**wildernessatthesmokies.com**

Betson opens Portland office, hosts AMI Tech School

PORTLAND, Ore. — Betson Enterprises opened the doors to a new Portland, Ore., office on May 23rd by celebrating with a Spotlight Show and barbecue cookout. Showcasing many games in their new, large warehouse, Betson sales and finance teams were on hand to discuss the new products and offer financing specials with the nearly 100 attendees. Kapil Mistry of Amusement Managament International (AMI) led an AMI Tech School at the Spotlight show. The course was so popular, a second session was added.

COURTESY BETSON ENTERPRISES

Midwest Safety & Operations CONFERENCE

March 2 – 4, 2020
Kalahari Resort - Sandusky, OH

Presented by Greater Ohio Showmen's Association

Join the GOSA for a safety & operations conference designed for the outdoor amusement industry.
Certified Training delivered by NAARSO

CHOSE YOUR TRAINING PATH FROM THE TRACKS BELOW

NAARSO Ride Inspection Training MOBILE
DESIGNED FOR: Carnivals, Portable Rides

NAARSO Ride Inspection Training PERMANENT
DESIGNED FOR: Amusement Parks, Attractions with Permanent Rides

NAARSO Aquatics Training
DESIGNED FOR: Water Parks, Community Pools

Operation Workshops
DESIGNED FOR: Concessionaires, Game Owners & Midway Personnel

For more info or to register click or call
www.safetyconf.com | 216-765-3610

ADVANCE DISCOUNT PRICING IN EFFECT NOW!

HANDS-ON TRAINING inside the Kalahari Resort Convention Center.
Education & fun all under one roof. Make plans to attend today!

Sponsors

McGowan Amusement Group · ARM · Amusement Today · Rides 4U · Bates Brothers Amusement Co. · OABA · Audio Innovator · Hummel Group

Summer Ops Camp offers workshop for winter operators to expand season

GATLINBURG, Tenn. — Organized by ***Ski Area Management*** magazine, Summer Ops Camp is a three-day, all-inclusive program designed for attendees to experience summer attractions and activities. Geared toward winter operators, the event explores new business opportunities to expand operations throughout the year and build new sources of revenue while networking with experts and fellow operators.

"It's our 11th year of Summer Ops Camp and we typically see anywhere from 120-150 attendees, which is a mix of mountain resort operators and summer activity suppliers, with emphasis on the former," said **Sarah Wojcik**, *Ski Area Management*. "We're excited to be in Tennessee this year in one of the most successful summer mountain towns in the United States."

The host accommodations facility is **Margaritaville Gatlinburg**.

The schedule takes attendees to multiple venues in the Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge area: **Anakeesta**, **Ober Gatlinburg**, **CLIMBworks**, **Lumber Jack Feud**, **Boyne SkyLift Park** exploring the new SkyBridge, and **Rowdy Bear** where nighttime zip coaster and mountain coaster rides will be had.

Anakeesta (above left) offers a variety of activities for Summer Ops Camp registrants. A stop at Rowdy Bear (middle) gives attendees experience on the facility's attractions. Ober Gatlinburg (above right) is one of the on-site hosts. AT/TIM BALDWIN

"People can take things from the amusement industry and round out their mountain experience," said **Kate Barido**, director of sales and marketing, Ober Gatlinburg. "A lot of overlaps come from other amusement parks. The ski industry as a whole … it is common for a ski area to close once skiing is done, ride out summertime and then re-open in the fall. They are finding with more resort experiences, the adventure tourism, it is an actual option — more than just golf. Gatlinburg is a great location for this event because of all the mountain coasters, zip coaster and lots of options for summer operations that ski areas can be exposed to."

"They will be doing a few coaster tours during the Summer Ops show. It's a good opportunity for ski mountains around the nation to actually experience how this niche market is tapping into the summer industry by incorporating recreational examples," said **Julie St. Louis**, **ADG**. "Ober Gatlinburg is a good example. You have a great mountain known for their skiing, but they've added so many things — summer tubing, alpine slides, an alpine coaster, indoor ice skating and more that drives that summer business and keeps that year-round business model."

Package rates are determined by single or double occupancy at the host resort, but are all-inclusive of two nights lodging, all meals, sessions, workshops, outdoor demonstrations, drink tickets, a welcome bag and off-site tours.

"Gatlinburg is a destination — it's the No. 1 national park, their revenues are off the charts, and they are a mountain town," said **Olivia Rowan**, publisher, *Ski Area Management*. "When you arrive there, it is not quite the experience mountain operators would say [they] do, but they will understand that to the customer, Gatlinburg is a mountain experience. They are getting 12 million people through there. They are doing something right to attract people to summer in the mountains. They have fantastic examples of the full package of retail, landscaping, spaces that address small families and accessibility."

Space is limited to ensure an immersive experience for attendees. The event has been known to sell out multiple years, so early registration is encouraged. Registration information is at saminfo.com/summer-ops-camp.

—Tim Baldwin

IRT INTERNATIONAL RIDE TRAINING

We have a **PASSION** for ride operation's trainers and supervisors who educate and motivate operators in the amusement industry. We are inspired by the dedication of ensuring safety by those we work with in the field of ride operations safety.

We have a **DESIRE** to fuel the passion and energy of ride operations teams by providing support, resources and tools to assist them in their development of educational knowledge and expertise in the ride amusement industry.

We have a **REPUTATION** for providing the best in operational training techniques and processes that produce strong and successful operations teams.

IRT specializes in Training. On-Site Audits. ADA Training and Audits Standard Operating Procedure Development. Leadership & Guest Service

Patty Beazley patty@ridetraining.com Cindee Huddy cindee@ridetraining.com
Erik Beard erik@ridetraining.com www.ridetraining.com

cpi amusement

1098 Windy Hill Road * PO Box 2040 * Kyle TX 78640
PH: 512-295-2683

CPI'S DESIGN & MANUFACTURING FACILITY ALLOWS US TO CREATE A CUSTOM APPLICATION TO FIT ALL YOUR WATER AND AMUSMENT PARK RIDE NEEDS!!!

LAZY RIVER TUBES, MASTER BLASTER TUBES, 2, 3 & 4-MAN RAFTS
BOBSLEDS, SPINNING RAPIDS & BUMPER COLLARS

www.cpitx.com

Pageantry World

BANNERS, FLAGS, POLES, HARDWARE

US Flags, State Flags, Custom Nylon Flags, Nylon Banners, Vinyl Banners, Flutter Style Flags

PAGEANTRY WORLD CARRIES EVERYTHING
FOR YOUR FLAG & BANNER NEEDS

SOLD CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTION

NORTON AUCTIONEERS

THE INDUSTRY EXPERTS!

Professional Auctioneers & Appraisers

Carnivals • Parks • Carousels

FEC's • Museums • Tourist Attractions

P.O. Box 279, Coldwater, MI 49036

517-279-9063

Fax: 517-279-4899

www.nortonauctioneers.com

E-mail: Dan@nortonauctioneers.com

FOR SALE

RIDES 4U

Supplying Amusements New to Used

- Zamperla Samba Balloon.....$29,000
- Zamperla Samba Balloon.....$89,000
- Wisdom Orient Express.....$89,000
- Sartori Balloon Wheel.....$29,000
- S & S Frog Hopper.....$29,000
- Zamperla Speedway (never used)...$159,000
- Modern Products Mini Pirate Ship..$20,000
- ARM Happy Viking.....$39,000
- SBF 14m Drop Zone.....$99,000
- Sartori Convoy.....$19,000
- Visa Choco Cups.....$19,000
- Majestic Wiggle Worm.....$59,000
- Eli Bridge Kiddie Swing (T/M).....$19,000

Call Len or Earl

(908) 526-8009

FAX: (908) 526-4535

www.Rides4U.com

Amusement TODAY Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

CLASSIFIED ADS

▶ **$20 minimum, up to 30 words ($1 per additional word)**

▶ **DISPLAY AD: $50 per column inch (a 1-point rule will appear around ad)**

▶ **Due the 10th of the month prior to issue date**

Call Sammy (817) 460-7220

Amusement TODAY Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

You Tube

FOLLOW US

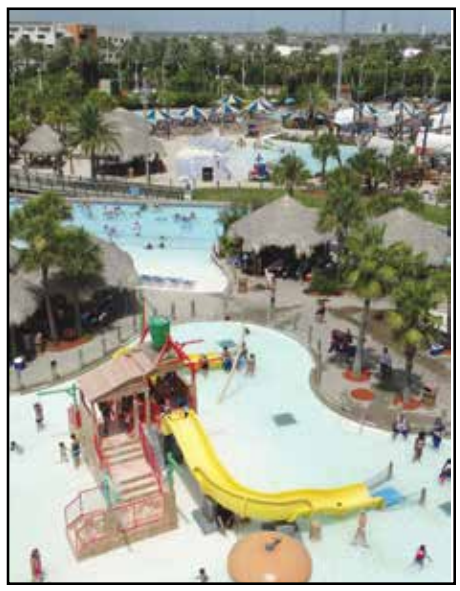
BREAKING NEWS

Cedar Fair signs agreement to acquire two Schlitterbahn water parks in Texas

SANDUSKY, Ohio — **Cedar Fair Entertainment Company** announced that it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire two water parks and one resort in Texas: **Schlitterbahn Waterpark and Resort New Braunfels** and **Schlitterbahn Waterpark Galveston**. The agreement is for a cash purchase price of $261 million, subject to certain working capital adjustments related to the timing of the closing.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to bring these two award-winning Texas water parks into the Cedar Fair family," said **Richard Zimmerman**, Cedar Fair's president and CEO. "These properties represent new markets for us with attractive demographics in the growing Central Texas region, and they align with our strategy to identify compelling opportunities to accelerate our growth and profitability. The investments we have made over the past five years to strengthen our back-of-house and customer-facing systems will support a smooth integration of these properties by ensuring a premium guest experience, strong team collaboration and superior execution.

"Schlitterbahn employees are known throughout the industry for their innovation and dedication to the quality of the guest experience," Zimmerman continued. "We look forward to adding these parks to Cedar Fair's industry-leading portfolio of regional entertainment resorts."



Cedar Fair Entertainment Company has announced it has reached an agreement to purchase Schlitterbahn Waterpark and Resort New Braunfels (above) and Schlitterbahn Waterpark Galveston (right). The acquisition will mark Cedar Fair's entrance into the Texas market. AT/TIM BALDWIN

The New Braunfels location has been recognized with the Golden Ticket Award for Best Water Park for 21 straight years, and the Galveston location was recognized for a decade with the Best Indoor Water Park Golden Ticket Award.

In addition to the two Texas properties, Cedar Fair has the right to acquire a third site, located on approximately 40 acres in Kansas City, Kansas, which previously operated as a Schlitterbahn water park, for a cash purchase price of $6 million.

• **cedarfair.com**

Dynamic Attractions creating marquee rides for China's Jialong Parks

SHANGHAI, China — Jialong Parks signed a letter of intent for Dynamic Attractions to provide up to nine key ride systems to some of China's newest theme parks. The formal signing ceremony occurred in Shanghai during IAAPA Expo Asia 2019. The letter calls for the attractions to be ordered, designed, manufactured and commissioned over the next few years at Jialong Parks currently under development for Chengdu, Beijing, Qin Huangdao, Fujian and Hainan. COURTESY DYNAMIC ATTRACTIONS

Masters in the art of insuring amusement risks.

Since 1983, we've crafted risk management solutions solely for the Amusement, Entertainment and Leisure industries.

That's expertise we bring to your business.

We find the perfect mix of innovative and affordable insurance programs for each and every individual client, then add 24/7 claims service to give you peace of mind.

ALLIED
SPECIALTY INSURANCE

Call and see how we can help:

800.235.8774

www.alliedspecialty.com

Insurance policies are administered by Allied Specialty insurance, Inc. (in California dba Allied Specialty Insurance Agency License No. 0748144). Allied Specialty Insurance is a trademark of AXA SA or its affiliates. AXA XL is a division of AXA Group providing products and services through four business groups: AXA XL Insurance, AXA XL Reinsurance, AXA XL Art & Lifestyle and AXA XL Risk Consulting. Coverages are underwritten by the following AXA XL insurance companies: Greenwich Insurance Company, Indian Harbor Insurance Company, XL Insurance America, Inc., XL Specialty Insurance Company and T.H.E. Insurance Company. Not all of the insurers do business in all jurisdictions nor is coverage available in all jurisdictions.

ZAMPERLA®

The Amusement Ride Company since 1966

MUST HAVE RIDEZ

Delivering a hugely exciting ride experience combined with an impressive visual impact Air Race became very fast one of the industry's hottest tickets and a must have family thrill ride for any park.

zamperla.com

Antonio Zamperla Spa Vicenza - Italy Phone: +39 0444 998400 e-mail: zamperla@zamperla.it